

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

33 Park Place; Goshen, NY 10924
The Rev. Dr. Rhonda Myers, Interim Pastor

Jonathan B. Hall, Minister of Music
Patricia Schwetje, Church Secretary

Telephone: (845) 294-7991; fax: (845) 615-1239
email: fpgoshen@gmail.com
Web Page: www.fpgoshen.org

February 2022

“Faith Matters”

“Faith Matters: What does faith mean to you?”

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

Dear Friends,

I have titled my Pastor’s letter “Faith Matters...” for many years, doing so because it allows me to:

1. Highlight each month a particular **matter of faith**, a topic of some sort, that has meaning for Christian living in a modern era;
2. Highlight our belief that **faith is the substance of hope** which matters as we go about our daily lives. Faith is the conviction that God is always with us and that God works for the good of all humankind. Faith is an abiding trust that God can make the impossible possible. Faith is the humble welcome of the Spirit’s leading, even if the Spirit leads us in directions that seem unusual or unmappable (is that even a word???).
3. Highlight the thought that our **faith is given shape by our religious affiliation**. For instance, the manner by which my faith has been formed and informed as a Presbyterian leads me to believe in a generous God of grace who gives us the freedom to live and be, but understands that such freedom can lead us down some errant paths. As a Presbyterian, I believe there is always room for repentance and forgiveness. As a Presbyterian, I believe in a triune God who is to be worshipped and adored. As a Presbyterian, I believe that God’s wisdom is poured into us by the power of the Holy Spirit, and I trust in exercising that wisdom through a strong democracy, including voting rights. For example, our congregations vote for their leaders, our leaders vote on matters of importance to the work of the church, and our elders serving as commissioners to higher judicatories vote on matters of church order, missional emphases, program funding and more. Our nation’s governance is largely founded on our Presbyterian form of governance—and that matters.

Each of these aspects of “faith” matter—they matter to the life of a congregation, but they also matter in our personal lives. My faith encourages me to study the bible thoroughly to understand its applications for life. My faith leads me to trust in a graceful, omniscient, omnipresent and sovereign God who walks with me through the darkest valleys of pain and grief and soars with me through the highest vistas of hope and joy. My faith leads me to trust in a church polity which allows for both independence and interdependence and a theology which helps me frame my life and leadership in meaningful ways as one who lives to serve the Lord within a covenant of grace.

I’ve been reading lately about important factors for a satisfying life and was saddened to see that faith is often not mentioned. Yes, other things that may sound “like faith” are mentioned—passion,

fulfillment, reasons to live. These *are* important aspects of a satisfying life, as are wellness, love, healthy relationships, safe living conditions, education, and economic security. But few mentions are made of faith or commitment to a religious affiliation; and the articles that do mention faith usually employ statistics showing that of the 10 or 12 “most important factors,” faith is the lowest in ranking.

Conversely, there are medical journals which cite a person’s faith life as often being quite important to one’s overall physical and emotional health. I believe that to be true. But the question I have for you this month is this: Can *you* believe this to be true? **What does your faith mean to you and is it important to your overall health and well-being, especially your spiritual health?**

Does your faith strengthen you in heart, mind and soul? Does your faith bring you peace and joy? Does your faith lead you to have hope, to trust in God’s providence and generous love? Does your faith help you see the light on dark days and does it lead you to celebrate on the golden days? Does your faith encourage you to share with others what you believe to be true about the Lord? Is your faith given shape by Worship, Bible Study, and your Presbyterian affiliation? Rather than just answer “yes” to every question, I urge you to prayerfully consider what your faith means to you—and if you find yourself answering “no” or even “maybe” to some of those questions, consider what spiritual longings might be met by participating more fully in the community of faith as Christ ordained it and the Spirit formed it.

Thank you for taking the time to read my musings each month. May God bless you richly with joy for the journey.

Pastor Rhonda Myers



Music Notes...

I want to express my great respect and appreciation for the Emmaus Ringers and the Adult Choir. They continue to serve faithfully and with excellence. We need to join in prayer that in-person worship can continue and flourish, that these ministers of music may keep on blessing us.

Despite it all, our music ministry is growing! Please consider contributing your talents in the near future. There’s still room, and solo acts will be considered.

For me, February is an in-between time. The Christmas decorations were reluctantly packed away, but the first crocuses aren’t quite peeping up yet—at least not in Dutch Hollow. I always observe Candlemas on February 2, forty days after Christmas, when Jesus was presented in the temple. I also recall the old mini-season of Septuagesima, the three weeks before Ash Wednesday, starting February 13. The liturgical music of this time is distinct and hauntingly beautiful. In the Eastern church, Lent is “eased into” over these three weeks. And of course there’s Valentine’s Day!

Nature does give us hope. The sun is setting a little later every day. The new semester has begun—thankfully, all online now. My professional and volunteer work move forward. There’s a new editor at *The American Organist*, and we’ve gotten off to a good start.

It was just two years ago that we had that incredible coffee house that raised money for the organ. I look back on that with continued gratitude. It was an amazing, affirming, and completely fun evening, and it shows the real character of this congregation...its love and its tenacity. I’m looking forward to news from Austin Organs on the final components that are awaited for the project.

Thanks for all you do, and please keep the faith. See you soon.

Jonathan

Something Every Sunday This Month!

Communion Sunday—February 6th

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.

Souper Bowl Sunday—February 13th

On February 13th, tens of millions of people will enjoy the warmth of friendship and the satisfaction of food and drink while watching the Super Bowl game on television. Unfortunately, at the same time, countless others will feel cold air against their flesh and hunger within their stomachs. Faith communities throughout our nation have responded for over 20 years in a unique effort to glorify God and care for our sisters and brothers in need. On "Souper Bowl Sunday," we ask that you donate an item for the Goshen Food Pantry—such as a can of soup—and, if possible, make a financial gift of some kind. Last year, the Goshen Food Pantry raised \$2,135 through Souper Bowl Sunday donations. Please join in an interfaith partnership of 6 churches and 1 temple as we seek to love the Lord our God and our neighbors by contributing in this simple yet significant way.

Worship with J.O.Y.—A Celebration of Family Love—February 20th @ 5pm

Our special services on the 3rd Sunday evening of the month continue in February. In recognition of Valentine's Day, our 5pm worship on February 20th will focus on the gift of love. This service will include a renewal of vows—between spouses, partners, parents and children. Bring the family and join us for a celebration of love.

Annual Congregational Meeting—February 27th—Following Worship

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen has called an annual Congregational Meeting immediately following the 9:30am worship on Sunday, February 27th for the purpose of receiving reports of the various church boards and committees.

Zoom Bible Study for Lent

Pastor Rhonda will be leading a Zoom Bible Study for Lent on Monday evenings from 7 to 8pm via Zoom. We will meet from February 28th through April 4th. Using the book ***Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday*** by New Testament Professor Amy-Jill Levine, we will experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother, the Beloved Disciple of John's gospel, Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the 2 men crucified with Jesus, the centurion and the soldiers, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus; Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing. Amy-Jill shows how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play and, from each, we learn how those roles and their messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today. Each Gospel has its own story to tell, all the witnesses have their own memories, and every reader comes away with new insight. Join us as we look to be transformed by reading the story of Jesus' sacrifice in a new way this Lent. Books will be available on the back table of the sanctuary. The purchase price is \$14. Let Pastor know if you will be joining the study so she can add you to the Zoom link.

Midnight Run

On one of the coldest days of the year, a hearty group of volunteers ventured to New York City early Saturday, January 15th for another breakfast run. Familiar faces along with some new volunteers made the trek into the city; setting up to serve the egg casseroles and sausages, lunch bags for later, coffee and bottled water. We also handed out toiletries, hats/gloves and assorted clothing. We had coats that the patrons were very happy to see. As expected, the turnout was less than the 75 people usually served on a morning run. It is heartbreaking to think that those who didn't come for food and clothing made that choice because they didn't want give up the "warm" spot they'd found to hunker down until the temps rose again. As always, we didn't solve the homeless problem or cure food insecurity in New York City. But for the 45-50 individuals we did serve; we made a tremendous difference. And that is what our Midnight Run mission is all about; being the light in the darkness faced by our brothers and sisters living on the streets or in shelters. We can't serve all but we can make all the difference for the ones we serve.

We will also be making coats and other warm clothing available to Goshen residents who patronize the Goshen Ecumenical Food Pantry during January, February and March food distributions days, so please continue to think of Midnight Run as you clean out your closets. There are bins in the narthex and in the hallway near the office for your convenience.

Thank you to all who contributed in any way before, during and after the run. Special shout out to the Goshen High School Interact Club and their advisor Beth Laskoski for their continued support in making the sandwiches and assembling the lunch bags the night before each Midnight Run.

Blessings,

Midnight Run

Co-coordinators

Arlete Shaeffer

Wendy Bynum-Wade

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.

This summer (July 24-27th) we are hoping to send our youth and young adults to Indianapolis, Indiana to Triennium.

Triennium, is a life-changing event for thousands of Presbyterian youth and young adults across the country.

The 2022 version of Presbyterian Youth Triennium will feature a Matthew 25 framework. They will be asking: "Lord, When Did We See You?"

This will be the first time FPC will be participating. Help us make this happen for our youth. To purchase your Shop Rite card, see Mark Glasse.

For more information on Triennium see: <https://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org>

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.

Masks in Worship

The Session asks that everyone entering the church building wear a mask and make a strong effort to social distance as a way of keeping everyone safe from disease. We have all tired of COVID-19 protocols like these, but we never tire of loving our neighbors. Thank you for doing your part to put love into action.

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.

Annual Reports

The 2021 Annual Reports will be available to pick up in the narthex on Sunday, February 20. It will also be sent electronically around February 17.

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 21 in observance of President's Day.

Offering Envelopes

The 2022 offering envelopes are on the table in the narthex. Please pick up yours. If you don't see a box with your name and would like one, please email Deb Hourahan at debourahan@yahoo.com

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:



1	<i>Grover von Pentz</i>	14	<i>Laura Colacci</i>
3	<i>Kat Kingsley</i>		<i>Andrea von Pentz</i>
4	<i>Garfield Clark</i>		<i>Doug Wade</i>
	<i>Arlete Shaeffer</i>	16	<i>Cliff Bartley</i>
5	<i>Morgan Case</i>		<i>Robyn Farley</i>
	<i>Sarah Gibbons</i>	20	<i>Beth Phelan</i>
10	<i>Linda Clark</i>		<i>Becky Stewart</i>
11	<i>Mike Csernai</i>	21	<i>Jack Calzaretta</i>
		24	<i>Mackenzie Sproul</i>

HAPPY FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES TO:

9	<i>Mike and Allison Csernai</i>
14	<i>Sean and Janet Linton</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.*

***Congratulations to Kat Kingsley on the birth of her daughter, Daenerys Rose Kingsley who was born on January 14, 2022. She was 6 lbs. 15 oz. and 19" long.
The proud grandparents are David Kingsley and Mary Kingsley.***



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:

Colin Alevras
Janet Begnoche
Scott Brinkley
Lynn Costa and Son
Everyone serving in the Military
Mary Lee Farris and her sister
Marlene Gaynor
Susan Johnson
Mary Kopec's cousin, Cathy
Patricia Lawlor
Kelly Magee Thrush
Richard Montalbano
Amy (Thompson) Nguye
Josephine Pecoraro
Karen Saleski
Mary Rita Schlagel
Louise Spencer
Christopher Tucker
Kenneth Van Etten
Orra Wood

Ron Alevras
Ann (Strong) Blake
Laura Colacci
Dori Dodson
James, Max, and Liam Feragola
Judy Fazio
Barbara and George Hankins
Rosemary Joy
Jeff Kott and Natalia
Maggie and Quinn
Evelyn Mercado
Kevin Murphy
Owen
Carlos and Miarose Reyes
Tom Sawyer
Eva Sickler
Barbara Hankins' sister, Virginia Stubenrauch
Lori Kilmer's mom, Learle VanEmburg
Sam Wallis
Molly Young

Susan Ambrsino
Richard Brahs
Barbara Cody
Doug and Sue
Charles Fritz
Kevin and Sara Hankins
Regina Kenny
Maria Kurt
James Magee
Dolores Mollicone
Eileen Myslinski
Dave and Wendy Paffenroth
Carolyn Reynolds
Matt Skyer
Gary Smith
Jerry Westphal

(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



FEBRUARY UPDATE

**Our garden welcomes us all whenever we feel like it!
Spend a quiet moment with our God contemplating 2022.**

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).

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 FEBRUARY/early MARCH Steward's Schedule:

Bill Eustance	February 1 – February 14
Barbara and George Hankins	February 15 – February 28
Bill Eustance	March 1 – March 15

CALLING ANY & ALL VOLUNTEERS!

“Helping Hands” are always needed and certainly welcomed to help maintain the garden. 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 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
Jane Geyer
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, Church Secretary
Deborah Hourahan, Church Treasurer
William Kozireski, Church Sexton
Mitch Weintraub, Church Sexton

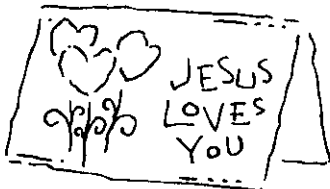
THE KID'S PAGE

Share your
message of
love

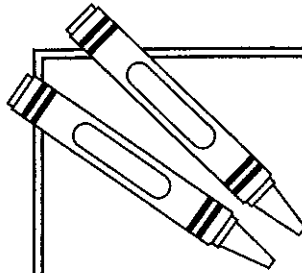
Make tray favors for a local hospital, nursing home, nutrition project or home-delivered meal program.

You will need for each:

- white, unlined index cards (4"x6")
- red & pink construction paper
- markers — green, black
- glue or glue stick



- ♥ Fold card in half
- ♥ Cut 3 hearts from colored paper. Make them about 1 inch high.
- ♥ Glue the hearts on the left side, overlap a little.
- ♥ Use marker to make "stems" from the hearts — they'll look like a bouquet of flowers.
- ♥ On the right side print a message or a verse, such as "Jesus Loves You."



Just for **KIDS**

A Special Message

During the month of February we focus on special feelings and people. We see hearts everywhere and send cards and greetings to friends and family. We need to do this every month!

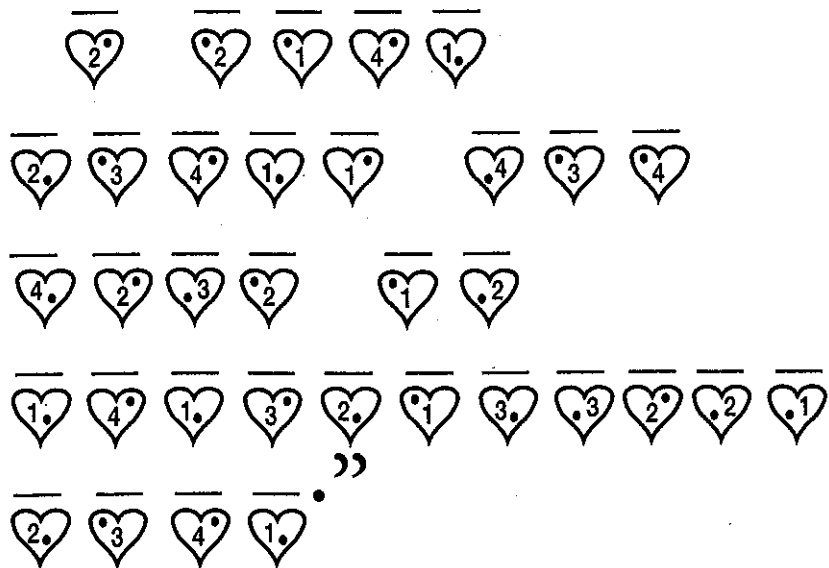


Use the code to find a special message from God. It's good for any day — any month!



CODE (A¹D¹G¹E¹) (H²I²N²L²) (O³R³T³S³) (U⁴V⁴Y⁴W⁴)

“



“I have loved you with an everlasting love.”

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
9:30am - Church 9:30am - Worship 12:30pm - Performing	12:30pm - NA @ FH	First Day of Black 7pm - Worship/Music Mtg. @ Zoom 9:30am - Food Pantry	6:30pm - NA @ B 7pm - Mission Mtg. @	6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir	12:30pm - NA @ FH	1pm - Academy
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30am - Church 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Deacon's	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Outreach	7:30pm - Finance	6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir	12:30pm - NA @ FH 6pm - Friday Night	9:30am - Food Pantry 1pm - Academy
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30am - Church 9:30am - Worship	Valentine's Day 12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry 7pm - GAPNS Mtg. @	7pm - Session @ Zoom	6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir	12:30pm - NA @ FH	1pm - Academy
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Tower Tie Articles Due 9:30am - Church 9:30am - Worship 5pm - Special Service	Office Closed Presidents' Day 12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry		5:30pm - Academy 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir	12:30pm - NA @ FH 5:30pm - Academy	9am - Food Pantry 1pm - Club Z! @ FH 5:30pm - Academy
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
9:30am - Church 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - 12pm - Academy	12:30pm - NA @ FH	First Day of Women's 9:30am - Food Pantry	6:30pm - NA @ B	6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir	12:30pm - NA @ FH	