

# THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the  
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

33 Park Place; Goshen, NY 10924

Jonathan B. Hall, Minister of Music  
Patricia Schwetje, Office Administrator

Telephone: (845) 294-7991; fax: (845) 615-1239

email: [fpgoshen@gmail.com](mailto:fpgoshen@gmail.com)

Web Page: [www.fpgoshen.org](http://www.fpgoshen.org)

Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/@firstpreschurchgoshenny>

February 2024



I write this propped up on the sofa, a concerned beagle keeping watch at my side. I've been camped out in the living room for a while now—no stairs yet—but every day brings a little more good news. My strength is returning with the sun. I'm getting the hang of crutches.

I have resumed writing reviews for *The American Organist*, our professional journal. This spring, for the first time in many years, I am not teaching any courses at NYU. I wonder what would have happened if I were signed up for a full course load on campus? I don't think I could manage it.

At my side are a few essential books: a Bible, the *Old Farmer's Almanac*, some new theological studies (one of them by a priest I have recently worked with), and a very old copy of *Christian Considerations*, by Richard Challoner. It is a book of meditations for every day of the year. Challoner was the bishop of the so-called "London District" during the heyday of the Georgian era—the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. For dirt cheap, about three dollars each, I was able to buy both volumes of his book, old copies printed in 1814. The paper is of excellent quality—no crumbling or cracking after 210 years. There's no acid in the old paper.

For entertainment, there's PBS Passport on my handy laptop...and all the other joys of the internet (?).

There's also a pile of organ scores ready for me to review. There is an enormous amount of creativity in that field these days. Of particular note are the Scandinavian composers—Louise Spencer would be so proud!

So all in all, I am doing OK. I miss the church and by the time you read this have hopefully returned to everything except the organ recitals. That will take longer. I can't wait to be back to normal.

Easter is March 31, and I hope we'll have a full, rousing, joyous service that day, full of choir, organ, and handbells. This is a great time to join the music ministry! Perhaps you'd just like to participate for Lent and Easter.

I would prefer no walk-ins on Easter morning; it's not fair to those who have practiced for weeks. If you'd like to sing but can't rehearse, let me know and I can work something out with you so you're ready.

Before Easter, we have Lent, which starts on Ash Wednesday, which this year is paradoxically also Valentine's Day. There will be a service that evening at 7:00 p.m. On that day, think about the kind of love that overflows the candy hearts printed with cute slogans, the un-sugary love that pours itself out and dies for the beloved. There's no cheap grace, but grace is worth every cent.

See you soon!

Jonathan

\*\*\*\*\*

### **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](mailto: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:***

*Trey Long, who is fighting stage 4 colon cancer*  
*Jonathan Hall who is recovering from surgery*  
*Wendy Bynum- Wade who is recovering from a fall*  
*Maureen Johnson who is recovering at home*  
*Mary Lee Redman who is recovering at home from a fall*  
*Dan and Diane Miller on the death of their daughter-in-law, Elise Triano Miller*  
*and her mother, Laura Triano*  
*Nancy Mason, who is in rehab after taking a fall*  
*Karen Magee's brother, Bill Stroe who had a stroke*

### **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.

## TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER



1	<i>Grover von Pentz</i>	14	<i>Laura Colacc</i>
2	<i>Jon Lu</i>		<i>Ann Delgado</i>
4	<i>Garfield Clark</i>		<i>Doug Wade</i>
	<i>Arlete Shaeffer</i>	16	<i>Cliff Bartley</i>
5	<i>Sarah Gibbons</i>		<i>Robyn Farley</i>
10	<i>Linda Clark</i>	20	<i>Becky Stewart</i>
11	<i>Mike Csernai</i>	21	<i>Jack Calzaretta</i>
		24	<i>Mackenzie Sproul</i>

### **HAPPY FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES TO:**

9     *Mike and Allison Csernai*  
 14    *Sean and Janet Linton*

*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.*

### **Guest Preachers for February**

February 4 – Lynn Costa

February 11 – Jody Kopec

February 18 – Rev. Glenn Henricksen

February 25 – Rev. Glenn Henricksen

**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.

## Ash Wednesday



Join us for Ash Wednesday worship on February 14 at 7:00 pm.

## Annual Congregational Meeting—February 25 — 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 25, 2024 for the purpose of receiving reports of the various church boards and committees.

## Annual Reports

The 2023 Annual Reports will be available to pick up in the Narthex on Sunday, February 18. It will also be sent electronically the week of February 12.

## Financial Commitments

If you haven't made a financial commitment for 2024 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 2024

**A message from the Treasurer:** Please consider paying your **per capita assessment for 2024** to offset the more than \$8,000 the church must pay out to cover expenses for the Presbytery of Hudson River, Synod of the Northeast and General Assembly of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This year it remains at **\$39.75 per member** (not per family). 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, 2024. Thank you for doing your share to support the expense of being a church in active ministry.

## 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.



## **New Member Class**

On February 18, we will be having a new member class in the church parlor. This class will start at 10:30 a.m. after the worship service. Anyone who is interested in joining the church or finding out more information about our church and faith are invited to attend.

## **Directory of Services**

As a church we are always supporting each other in different ways. The support we provide comes in many forms; spiritual, emotional, physical. But there is another way as well. If you provide a product or service, whether you are self-employed, work for a company, or have a hobby, let others in the church know what you do! This is not a listing of free services or products, but there are always times in our lives where we need help and maybe a church member can do it for you. If you would like to participate, please reach out to Michael Coyne at 845-238-4585 or email the Outreach Committee at [fpcgoshen.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:fpcgoshen.outreach@gmail.com) We hope to have a listing available by the end of February, so please be sure to get your info in quickly.

## **Tuesday Organ Recitals**

The Tuesday recital series is suspended through February. Jonathan hopes to resume after that time. Watch this space for further developments and thanks for your support!

## ***NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE.....***



## **Jo Wolfe Fellowship Dinner**

On Sunday, February 4, in memory of Jo Wolfe who was so faithful in organizing the Fellowship Dinners, we will be meeting at the Rustic Wheelhouse in Chester at 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$45 per person which includes a dinner choice of chicken francese, baked salmon or eggplant rollatini. Also included are salad, bread, coffee, and soda, cannoli and tip. RSVP to George Schust. Reservations and payment (cash only) is due by Sunday, January 28. 30 seats are available.

Coffee hour hosts are needed. Please contact Diane Church at [dianeschurch@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

## Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden



### FEBRUARY UPDATE

#### 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

**PLEASE NOTE:** A niche in the Memorial Columbarium has become available. If you are interested in purchasing it, please contact Pat in the church office.

The price of the niche is \$2,800. There are two payment options:

12 month = \$250/month for 12 months (\$3,000)

18 month = \$180/month for 1 months (\$3,240)

**Once this niche is 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 FEBRUARY/and early MARCH Steward's Schedule:

Nancy Buckley	February 1 – February 15
Barbara and George Hankins	February 16 – February 29
Bill Eustance	March 1 – March 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  
Linda Clark  
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**

**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

## Make a Special Treat to Share

Here's a tasty treat that's fun to make.

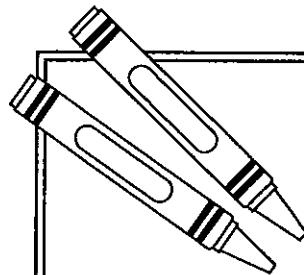
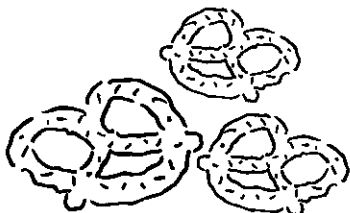
*You will need:*

- ♥ 6 oz. white chocolate (for coating)
- ♥ microwave-safe bowl
- ♥ 24 large pretzel twists
- ♥ red sprinkles, small red heart candies or red jelly beans
- ♥ waxed paper
- ♥ cookie sheet
- ♥ an adult to help



*How to make the treats:*

- ♥ Put waxed paper on the cookie sheet.
- ♥ With help from an adult, melt the white chocolate in the microwave (see package directions).
- ♥ Dip the pretzels into the chocolate one at a time, and then place on cookie sheet.
- ♥ Before the chocolate cools, decorate the pretzels with sprinkles, hearts or jelly beans.
- ♥ Leave them on the cookie sheet until the chocolate hardens.
- ♥ Share them with friends!



## Just for KIDS

### Biblical Couples

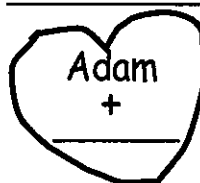
Here are some couples found in the Bible. The husbands' names are given. Find the wives in the list. Use the verses to help.

Hannah  
Zipporah  
Drusilla

Rachel  
Bathsheba  
Priscilla

Mary  
Sarah  
Sapphira

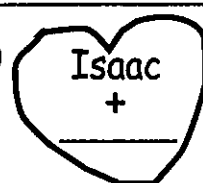
Rebekah  
Elizabeth  
Eve



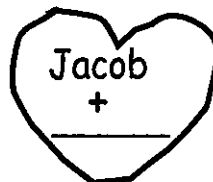
Genesis 3:20



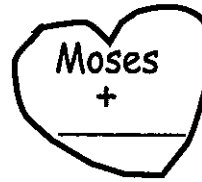
Genesis 17:15



Genesis 24:67



Genesis 29:28



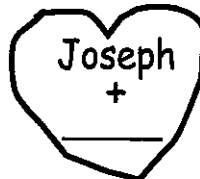
Exodus 2:21



1 Samuel 1:8



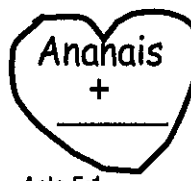
2 Samuel 12:24



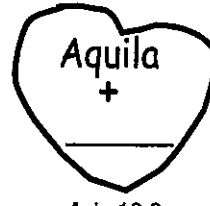
Matthew 1:18



Luke 1:5



Acts 5:1



Acts 18:2



Acts 24:24

Answer: Adam & Eve; Abraham & Sarah; Isaac & Rebekah; Jacob & Rachel; Moses & Zipporah; Elkanah & Hannah; David & Bathsheba; Joseph & Mary; Zechariah & Elizabeth; Ananais & Sapphira; Aquila & Priscilla; Felix & Drusilla



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ B	9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B		First Day of Black History Month 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - NA @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ B 3pm - GAPNS @ FH	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Worship/Music 4pm - Dinner Club @ Rustic	12:30pm - NA @ B	9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 6:30pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - Outreach Committee @ 7:30pm - PNC @ B	4:30pm - Mission Committee @ P 6:30pm - NA @ B		12:30pm - NA @ B 6pm - Friday Night Friends @ FH	9am - Food Pantry @ FH
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Souper Bowl of Caring 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Deacon's Mtg. @ K	12:30pm - NA @ B	9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B	Valentine's Day 7pm - Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:30pm - Finance Committee @ P	6:30pm - NA @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ B 1pm - Laura Colacci @ FH, K	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Tower Tie articles due 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - New Member Class @	Office Closed Presidents' Day 12:30pm - NA @ B	9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B	7pm - Session @ P	6pm - Food Pantry @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ B	
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Congregational Mtg. @	12:30pm - NA @ B	9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B			First Day of Women's History 12:30pm - NA @ B	12pm - NA Event @ FH, K