

# THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the  
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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January 2023

## Faith Matters

**“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.”**  
*(Ecclesiastes 3:1, NRSVue)*

My Dear Goshen Presbyterian Friends and Family,

I hope this letter finds you well and I hope, too, that your Christmas holiday was a lovely one. It is still my joy to be a part of this wonderful faith community, and I hope you feel likewise about my participation with the church.

As you know, the Transition Team’s Report has been approved by the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry (COM) and the congregation’s nominating committee is at work putting together a slate of church members to recommend to you for service on an upcoming Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Once our general nominating committee has agreed on a slate of active members to present to you for service on the PNC, they will share that slate with the Session along with a request that a special congregational meeting be called to elect that PNC.

Once the PNC has been elected, neither the Session nor the interim pastor nor the at-large members of the congregation have a role in determining who will be the next pastor **until the PNC is ready to present its nominee to you for a vote.** The presbytery has asked the Rev. Judy Anderson of the Florida church to serve as their representative to the PNC, being available to them to offer guidance and support, and to evaluate the nominee that the PNC selects to be presented to you for vote. It is part of our Presbyterian polity that the presbytery is authorized to be *partners* in this discernment process.

And, once elected, the PNC will write up a Ministry Information Form (MIF), largely based upon the Transition Team’s Report, and establish criteria by which to determine which candidates they feel would be a good match for the Goshen church. The MIF, once approved by the presbytery, will be shared with church headquarters in Louisville and it will be added to the database of the Church Leadership Connection of the PC(USA)’s Office of Vocations. Before too long, Personal Information Forms (PIFs) from pastors seeking a new call will be forwarded to our PNC for review. This can be a fairly lengthy process, I warn you. So, I ask that you:

- Keep the PNC in your prayers;
- Exercise patience in awaiting their updates;

- Support the decisions they make on your behalf; and
- Do not put undue influence on the PNC to call “a certain type” of pastor.

Let God be the One to lead the PNC in their work. Agendas or preferences have no place in the call processes of our Presbyterian churches.

This is an exciting time for the church and I know I can count on you to prayerfully support the Pastor Nominating Committee you will soon elect. Once a date has been set for the special congregational meeting to elect the PNC, we will announce it on social media and during announcements at worship. So, “keep an ear out.”

Let us share in prayers for a blessed new year!

Yours in Christ

*Pastor Rhonda*

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### **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)**

If you are asked to serve on the PNC, please give it prayerful consideration.

### **Book Study Starting January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

We will be starting a Zoom Book Study using Colby Martin’s UnClobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality on January 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 7pm. Copies of the book are for sale at Amazon and other retailers; it is available in paperback or on Kindle. The Zoom link will come from Pastor Rhonda. So, please contact her at [revrhon@aol.com](mailto:revrhon@aol.com) to let her know you would like to join the study. As the title would suggest, the book is about inclusion and welcome. Pastor and Author Doug Pagitt has said of the UnClobber, “Martin’s insight, winsome spirit, and passion have come together to create a book that I not only love but am proud to share with those whom I love. UnClobber is a great gift for all who are seeking deeper understanding, faith, and compassion.

### **News From the Fellowship Committee....**

We need people to sign up to host coffee hour. Our committee has many faithful members that participate weekly, but we need others to join in the adventure. Please sign up to host on the board in Fellowship Hall and members of the Fellowship Committee will HELP!

Our January plans include BINGO Game Time at coffee hour on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The last Sunday of every month, the congregation is asked to bring the treats. January 29<sup>th</sup> is the last Sunday and we ask the congregation to supply the treats. Plan on coming and having some fellowship and fun!

# **TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER**

## **HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:**

1	Stephen Serkes	17	Sam Fontana
5	Wayne George	20	Laura Pietropaolo
8	Hannah Warner	25	Sam Boese
12	Scott Roper	31	Alexander Begnoche
13	Don Dinsmore		Maddie Laskoski
	Molly Farley		Sara Laskoski
	Ryan Farley		Richard Paulus
	Whitney Schindley		

***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.***

## **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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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](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:**

Landon Schust and Family  
Linda Clark's nephew, Andrew DeBlock and his family  
Orra Wood  
Alan Thompson  
The Family of Ashley Wade  
The Family of Jim Wolfe  
Hannah Warn and her father, Mr. Warn  
Barry Freeman  
Kevin, Sara, and Sadie Hankins and the Cooper Family

## **Mission Event: Midnight Run- January 14, 2023**

THE NEXT EXCURSION INTO NYC FOR MIDNIGHT RUN WILL BE ANOTHER BREAKFAST RUN ON SATURDAY, January 14<sup>th</sup>.

WE will need drivers and helpers to help on site in the city. We will depart Goshen at 7:15 a.m. (arrive at 6:45 a.m. to pack) and can expect to be back in Goshen by 1:00 p.m. or before. We will not have to move from one site to another so if you've wanted to see what happens on a Run, this is a good way to get your feet wet.

Teens can come with a parent; it's a great way to pick up community service hours.

We will be serving breakfast casseroles, coffee, bottled water, lunch bags (with hard boiled eggs, sandwich, fruit), goodie bags and toiletry bags.

### **We need the following food donations:**

**Heat and serve sausages - 100 links**

**Hard boiled eggs - (6 dozen)**

**Bread - 150 slices**

**Jelly - 1 large jar**

**Peanut butter - 1 large jar**

**Deli meats:**

**Ham - 2 lbs.**

**Turkey- 2 lbs.**

**American cheese - 3 lbs.**

**Boxes of raisins -(snack size, 75 individual count)**

**Powdered creamer - 1 large**

**Sandwich bags (plastic zip lock) 150 Count**

If you can help in any way, please contact us via email or text/voice calls.

Thanks in advance for your prayerful consideration in helping us continue with this mission.

Wendy Bynum-Wade

[wendybynumwade@gmail.com](mailto:wendybynumwade@gmail.com)

845-629-4324 (cell)

Arlete Shaeffer

[Arlete.Shaeffer@gmail.com](mailto:Arlete.Shaeffer@gmail.com)

203-545-5622 (cell)

Carol Gabella @ church or phone [845-342-4367](tel:845-342-4367)

Co-coordinators

Midnight Run @ First Presbyterian Church in Goshen

Monetary donations towards purchase of items not donated are always appreciated.

THERE ARE BINS IN THE NARTHEX AND NEAR THE OFFICE TO DROP OFF DONATIONS.  
PLEASE DROP OFF CLOTHING BY Sunday JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Other needs for clothing are listed below.**

**WE need:**

**Hand sanitizer (pump bottles)**

**Small bottles (individual size) of hand sanitizer**

**Washcloths**

**Hand wipes (for help)**

**Shaving cream (small size)**

**Sanitizer cleaning wipes**

**Tooth paste and tooth brushes**

**Combs**

**Feminine hygiene pads**

**Deodorant**

**Specific Winter clothing needed:**

**Gently used and clean items:**

**Men's** pants and jeans, jackets/coats, sweat shirts, sturdy shoes, boots, hats and gloves

**Ladies:** slacks, jeans, sweaters, jackets/ coats, sweat shirts, gloves, hats, sturdy walking shoes/sneakers, functional boots, warm socks

Blankets, sleeping bags

**Please**

**NO dresses, blouses, bathing attire, sandals, shorts, high heel shoes or boots**

**NO children or baby clothing**

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### **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.

### **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.

### **2022 Annual Reports**

Due in the church office by January 15, 2023

### **The Annual Congregational Meeting**

Scheduled for Sunday, February 26, 2023

## Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden



### **JANUARY UPDATE**

**The New Year brings hope and promise for us all.  
Take a walk around the labyrinth and spend a moment with our Creator.**

#### **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.

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#### **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.

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#### **“Stewards of Our Garden”**

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

##### **The JANUARY/EARLY FEBRUARY Steward's Schedule:**

Bill Eustance	January 1 – January 15
Nancy Buckley	January 16 – January 31
Barbara and George Hankins	February 1 – February 14

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### **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.***

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Call the church office (845-294-7991) for any information you 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 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

# THE KID'S PAGE



*Start your new year  
by keeping a journal  
of your life.*

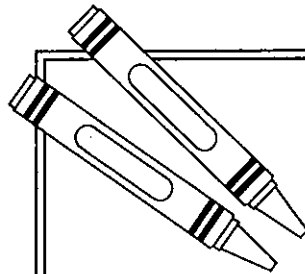
*You will need:*

- a spiral notebook
- contact paper
- permanent marker



*How to make and use  
your journal:*

- Use the contact paper to cover the front of the notebook.
- Put your name and a name for the journal on the cover.
- Decorate the cover with drawings or stickers.
- Each day (or once a week) write down your thoughts, prayers, poems, dreams and the date. You can also make drawings to go along with your writings.



## New Year's Resolutions

Use the code to read some important words to live by.

CODE:	A=1	D=4	H=8	L=12	P=16	T=20	X=24
	B=2	E=5	I=9	M=13	Q=17	U=21	Y=25
	C=3	F=6	J=10	N=14	R=18	V=22	Z=26
		G=7	K=11	O=15	S=19	W=23	

8 1 22 5 14 15 15 20 8 5 18 7 15 4 19

2 5 6 15 18 5 13 5

8 15 14 15 18 25 15 21 18 6 1 20 8 5 18

1 14 4 13 15 20 8 5 18

4 15 14 20 13 9 19 21 19 5

7 15 4 19 14 1 13 5

11 5 5 16 20 8 5 19 1 2 2 1 20 8

8 15 12 25

12 5 1 18 14 20 8 5 20 5 14

3 15 13 13 1 14 4 13 5 14 20 19

Answer: Have no other gods before me. Honor your father and mother. Don't misuse God's name. Keep the Sabbath holy. Learn the Ten Commandments.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>New Year's Day</b> 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	2 <b>New Year's Day (substitute)</b> 12:30pm - NA @ FH	3 9:30am - Food Pantry 6pm - Fellowship Committee 6:30pm - NA @ FH	4 4:30pm - Mission Committee 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:10pm - Worship and Music	5 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - NA @ FH	6 12:30pm - NA @ FH	7
8 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Deacon's Mtg. @	9 12:30pm - NA @ FH	10 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - GAPNS Mtg. @ FH	11 7:30pm - Finance Committee	12 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	13 12:30pm - NA @ FH 6pm - Friday Night Friends @	14 6:45am - Midnight Run @ 9am - Food Pantry @ Parking
15 <b>Annual Reports Due</b> <b>Tower Tie Articles Due</b> 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	16 <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 12:30pm - NA @ FH	17 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH	18 7pm - Session @ FH	19 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	20 12:30pm - NA @ FH	21
22 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	23 12:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Book Study @ Zoom	24 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH	25	26 9am - GAPNS Book Fair @ B 6pm - Food Pantry @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	27 9am - GAPNS Book Fair @ B 12:30pm - NA @ FH 5:30pm - Cub Scouts @ FH	28 8am - Cub Scouts @ FH 9am - GAPNS Book Fair @ B
29 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - BINGO @Coffee	30 12:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Book Study @ Zoom	31 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH	1 <b>First Day of Black History</b> 4:30pm - Mission Committee 6:30pm - NA @ B 7pm - Christian Ed Meeting 7:10pm - Worship and Music	2 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - NA @ FH	3 12:30pm - NA @ FH	4