

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

July/August 2021

“Faith Matters”

“And we urge you, beloved, to... pray without ceasing.” (*I Thessalonians 5:14a, 17*)

To the fellowship of believers at the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen,

The salutation above is similar to one the Apostle Paul might have written to the churches he served during his ministry. Paul was not only a founding pastor, he was also the quintessential interim pastor. He would join a congregation for a season and help them develop practices that deepened their faith, enriched their spiritual lives, while bringing structure to their work as the priesthood of believers and training the church leaders to lead with care, authenticity and intentional design.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) publishes a monthly publication called “RE: Regarding Ruling Elders,” to offer insight on topics related to being church leaders. But many of the articles are just as useful to all participants in church life, not simply to those serving in official leadership positions. The February issue this year, written by the Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka who served, before retirement, as a professor of Christian Education at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, was just such an issue.

Discussing prayer, Rodger spoke of struggling with Paul’s counsel to the church in Thessalonica to “pray without ceasing.” As a pastor’s kid, he thought his Dad’s pastoral prayers “dragged on for an eternity,” leading he and his brothers to start timing their Dad’s prayers—and they announced over family dinner one Sunday that Dad had set an all-time record that morning by praying for more than six minutes. Challenging their Dad to explain how he knew God was listening for that long and why he prayed for things and people God already knew about, his father replied, “Boys, I don’t pray for God to know about us. I pray for us to know about God.”

Rodger carried that conversation with him for years and later in life, when reading American Trappist monk Thomas Merton say that he doesn’t pray to change God, he prays so that he might be changed, Rodger began to realize the value of his father’s words. “To pray is to be changed or transformed for the better. Understanding prayer not as a way to change God but as a way for me to become more and more in the likeness of Jesus helped me to view prayer in a different way. But I was still stuck with Paul’s call to pray without ceasing. Then I was introduced to breath prayers—the idea that because God brought humankind to life by breathing into us (Genesis 2:7), when we breath in, we take in God’s very breath. And when we breathe out, we breathe God’s breath to the creation. Breathing is a form of prayer because the goal is that we might be more attuned to God, and breathing takes God’s very breath into our bodies.”

I incorporated breath prayer into my spiritual practice years ago, after attending a PC(USA) retreat for mid-career pastors. Breathing in, I might start with, “Breathing in God’s love.” And breathing out, I might continue with, “Breathing out God’s love upon the world.” Or, “Breathing in, God’s peace,” and “Breathing out, God’s mercies.”

Once a pattern of breathing is in place, I can pray through intercessions by speaking aloud the name or situation in need of care as a spiritual practice of love. As Rodger likes to say, “There is no magic here. It is not that by my speaking I think suddenly God is more attentive. Rather...when I say a name or situation, I am more attuned to the person or situation. In my praying, God helps me to abide, to rest, to remain with them. *I always end my prayers with gratitude.* What I have come to realize is the more attuned I am to God, the more faithful I am as a follower of Jesus.”

We will be practicing the spiritual discipline of giving thanks during our Summer evening worship this July and we will include some prayer forms that, like breath prayers, draw us into deeper, transforming communion with our Creator whose breath gives us life. I hope you can join us! 6pm on Sundays in the Park.

With thanksgiving to God for the joy we share in Jesus Christ,

Pastor Rhonda, Interim Pastor

FPCG is Getting a CAT Scan!

Hudson River Presbytery recently began utilizing a new Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) for assessing congregational health and vitality. Churches that are not in transition can voluntarily choose to be a part of this assessment process. But churches in transition, such as ours, are expected to take part in this Congregational Assessment. In many ways, the CAT replaces the old mission study process, providing invaluable information about the congregation that is useful in selecting a new pastor. So what is *CAT*?

A Congregational CAT Scan

The CAT was developed by Holy Cow! Consulting (www.holycowconsulting.com) and is a benchmarked assessment tool that has been used by over 3,000 congregations of all sizes and denominations. Using both qualitative and quantitative metrics, the CAT provides data-based insights into congregational climate and culture, community demographics, and areas of strength and growth. All of this information and interpretation enables church leadership to “make better decisions in less time with more confidence.”

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the CAT? The Church Assessment Tool is an 86-question online assessment of a congregation that is completed by members of a church. The CAT takes 20-30 minutes to complete and is completely confidential. We affectionately call it a CAT-SCAN. It generates a report called Vital Signs©.

What is the purpose of the CAT? Using the Congregation Assessment Tool is like taking your church to a doctor, a travel agent and a tailor. It gives leaders a read-out on the health of the church, a sense of where members think the church should head in the future, and a description of the church as a unique body of people.

Why now? FPCG is in the midst of a pastoral transition. The CAT will help us “check-in” with our members and with our goals and priorities to make sure we are on the right track into the future.

Stay tuned for more information coming soon! And please do your part to make the CAT useful by completing the survey when it is released.

Summer Sundays in the Park

The Worship and Music Committee is happy to offer a second worship service this summer, through July 25th. We will meet in the Park at 6pm and share in some interactive, family friendly worship. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Bring a beverage or a picnic meal for you and your family. Bring your enthusiasm and your desire to share in a spirited yet intimate worship of scripture, song, prayer and a participatory message. Put this evening worship service on your calendars and make a point to join us: Sundays @ 6pm through 7/25.

Christian Education announces return of

Friday Night Friends

Friday July 16th at 6pm – 8pm walk in registration at 5:30

First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall

July Theme: “Splash”

Dinner, Bible story, crafts, STEM project, and FUN, FUN, FUN

Cost: \$5.00 per child max. family cost \$15.00 (to cover dinner and supplies)

Friday August 6th at 6pm – 8pm

Theme to be announced

Friday September 10th 6 – 8pm

Theme to be announced

For questions or if you want more information contact:

Linda Boardman at: Linda.Sundayschool@gmail.com

Allison Csernai at: aac0605@gmail.com

Or call: 845 665-9545

Volunteers needed to help make/serve dinner, with crafts, or storytelling.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER



HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Rick Heal</i>	20	<i>BA Long</i>
2	<i>Brian Meek</i>	24	<i>Jody Kopec</i>
4	<i>Judy Green</i>		<i>Lucien Quick</i>
7	<i>Felicia Van Doran</i>	25	<i>Bill Eustance</i>
12	<i>Kenneth Phelan</i>		<i>Curtis Johnson</i>
	<i>Leah Dinsmore</i>		<i>Ashley Wade</i>
13	<i>Colin Boardman</i>	26	<i>John Gruber</i>
16	<i>Mark Glasse</i>	31	<i>Lynn Healey</i>
18	<i>Lori Kilmer</i>		<i>Shannon Roper</i>
19	<i>Logan Quick</i>		

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS TO:

2	<i>Robin Knoblock</i>	18	<i>Alan Sproul</i>
3	<i>Craig Shaeffer</i>	21	<i>Joan Howell</i>
4	<i>Paty Glasse</i>	23	<i>Wendy Bynum-Wade</i>
9	<i>Barbara Hankins</i>	26	<i>Alexis Dickover</i>
13	<i>Matt Begnoche</i>	29	<i>Carolyn Keller</i>
	<i>Jean Crandall</i>	30	<i>Ed Gallet</i>
15	<i>Tyler Csernai</i>		
	<i>Jonathan Laskoski</i>		

HAPPY JULY ANNIVERSARIES TO:

8	<i>Patrick and Jennifer Ellis</i>
11	<i>Leroy and Judy Green</i>
	<i>Doug and Wendy Wade</i>
14	<i>Gary and Beth Laskoski</i>
	<i>Grover and Barbara vonPentz</i>
22	<i>Rob and Christine Person</i>
24	<i>Brendan and Wendy Donohue</i>
30	<i>Benjamin and Erica Walsh</i>

HAPPY AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES TO:

14	<i>Garfield and Linda Clark</i>
18	<i>Logan and Rachael Quick</i>
26	<i>Ron and Kathy Stringer</i>
27	<i>Brian and Nancy Buckley</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.***



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:

Ron Alevras
Ann (Strong) Blake
Barbara Cody
Jean and Bruce Crandall
James, Max, and Liam Feragola
Charles Fritz
Kevin and Sara Hankins
Regina Kenny
Brenda Kujawski
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
Ashley Wade
Jerry Westphal

Susan Ambrsino
Richard Brahs
Lynn Costa and Son
Dori Dodson
Mary Lee Farris and her sister
Carol Gabella's nephew, Frank
Susan Johnson
Mary Kopec's cousin, Cathy
Maria Kurt
James Magee
Dolores Mollicone
Eileen Myslinski
Dave and Wendy Paffenroth
Carolyn Reynolds
Matt Skyer
Gary Smith
Sam Wallis
Orra Wood

Janet Begnoche
Scott Brinkley
The Family of Peter Coyne
Everyone serving in the Military
Judy Fazio
Barbara and George Hankins
Rosemary Joy
Jeff Kott and Natalia
Patricia Lawlor
Kelly Magee Thrush
Richard Montalbano
Amy (Thompson) Nguye
Josephine Pecoraro
Karen Saleski
Mary Rita Schlagel
Louise Spencer
Christopher Tucker
Kenneth Van Etten
Mitch Weintraub
Linda Clark's nephew, Sean Zwart

(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.)

PLEASE PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2021

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 **270** and **our assessment per member** (not per family) **for 2021 is \$38.83**, which is a total of **\$10,484.10** 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, 2021. Thanks for doing your share.



Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

JULY - AUGUST UPDATE

**Enjoy the peace and tranquility our garden can bring this summer.
Count your many blessings as we return to a more normal way of life.**

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 only have one order).

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 JULY-AUGUST/early SEPTEMBER Steward's Schedule:

Bill Eustance	July 1 – July 15
Barbara and George Hankins	July 16 – July 31
Bill Eustance	August 1 – August 15
Barbara and George Hankins	August 16 – August 31
Bill Eustance	September 1 – September 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
Ken Phelan
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

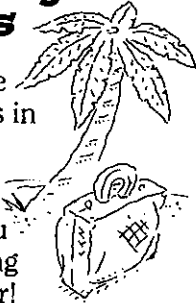
Jonathan B. Hall, Minister of Music
Patricia Schwetje, Church Secretary
Deborah Hourahan, Church Treasurer
William Kozireski, Church Sexton
Mitch Weintraub, Church Sexton

THE KID'S PAGE

Traveling Games

A lot of people take vacations in the summer.

Here are two fun games you can play during trips in the car!



"NOW!"

1. The driver picks an object he sees a mile or so down the road.
2. Players close their eyes.
3. When a player thinks the car is about to pass the object, he or she calls out, "Now!"

Alphabet Race

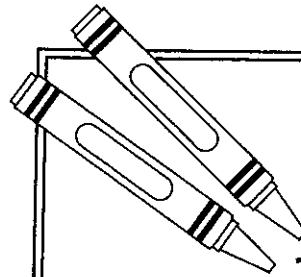
Find the letters of the alphabet in order using the letters on the license plates of other cars.

To make it more challenging, start at the letter Z and work backwards to A.

b c Z

Another way to play the game is to pick a word and then try to find the letters that spell your word.

Jesus Love



Just for KIDS

Vacation Time

Where do you like to go on vacation? Check out these places from the Bible. Use the Scripture verses below to find these places in the puzzle. (If a verse has more than one place, only one is in the puzzle. Figure out which one.) Circle each place in the puzzle.



Answers go: → ↓ ↘

Genesis 2:15

Genesis 11:9

Genesis 35:1

Exodus 13:18

Ruth 1:1

1 Kings 18:19

1 Chronicles 11:4

Isaiah 23:1

Isaiah 23:2

Isaiah 23:3

Jonah 1:2

Matthew 3:6

Matthew 4:18

Matthew 26:36

Luke 24:13

John 2:1

Acts 8:5

Acts 11:22

Acts 17:16

Romans 1:15

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

[NOTE: The completed puzzle is in a file called KID0703BB on this month's CD and on the Web site: www.NewsletterNewsletter.com.]