THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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July/August 2022

"Faith Matters: Beloved Community"

Summer 2022

"Let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ... No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

(1 John 4:7-8, 12)

My dear friends,

There was an article in a recent issue of *Christianity Today* about the church as "Beloved Community" that really captured my attention. As you know, the pandemic has fostered a great deal of struggle for the Church of Jesus Christ in the U.S., Canada, and throughout much of the Northern Hemisphere. Many congregations that were already struggling with low energy and a waning sense of purpose prepandemic are now in dire straits. The number of church closures among what were once known as "mainline" congregations is at an all-time high. And anxiety has prompted fissures over secondary issues because the primary issue—the future life of the church—seems too challenging an issue to tackle.

Adding to that struggle the additional layer of the church having become synonymous with things like clergy abuse, hypocrisy, legalism, racism, gender conflict, intolerance and prejudices against persons of another ethnicity or gender identity, the situation has become even more grim because fewer and fewer people deign to walk through the doors of a church much less becoming part of a faith community.

But there is another way to live and be as the body of Christ. The late 19th century philosopher Josiah Royce developed the concept of "Beloved Community," which was later popularized by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. King taught and pursued a way of life in Christ in which "love and trust will triumph over fear and hatred." The principles of Beloved Community as King described them are rooted in Scripture and provide a "kingdom-shaped framework for a richer way of living life together. They're built around the love of Christ, love of others, redemption, reconciliation, nonviolence, and shared power."*

Beloved Community is one that embodies love by honoring the image of God in every human being. To that end, Beloved Communities embody love by listening with the heart and an open mind, thereby creating room for empathy and compassion for others.

Beloved Community is one that fosters an active spirituality, allowing the dynamic Spirit of God to work in us and through us for the sake of the Kingdom. Such spirituality begins in worship, but it can't end there if it is to grow and thrive. Such spirituality means being in conversation with God and others around topics that may not be "easy" to discuss but are important to understanding who we are in relation to God and what God intends for the church of Jesus Christ at this time in human history. Such spirituality means being intentional about prayer, bible study, and Christian fellowship that enriches the soul as much as it delights the heart.

Beloved Community is one that strives to resolve conflicts peacefully—understanding, of course, that conflict is as much a part of the church "family system" as it is any other "family system." And if the church is to be healthy, we must not ignore our conflicts or, worse yet, intensify our conflicts. Rather, we must find a way to create healthy space for the Spirit to enter into those conflicts to help us resolve our issues peacefully. "We cannot do this work on our own; we must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Like me, you undoubtedly see signs of Beloved Community in our congregation already in the way that we show Christ-like love to others around us: welcoming the stranger, sharing in the warmth of fellowship, being present for one another in times of grief or transition, and taking our love out into the world by addressing poverty, hunger, substandard housing, and homelessness. The Holy Spirit is already moving and shaping our Beloved Community in the way of love, and the Spirit will help us grow our community further as we seek to embrace Christ's kingdom-shaped way of life.

In "The Role of the Church in Facing the Nation's Chief Moral Dilemma" in 1957, Dr. King spoke of what he believed to be his ultimate goal:

"The end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the beloved community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opposers into friends. The type of love that I stress here ... is agape which is understanding goodwill for all men. It is an overflowing love which seeks nothing in return. It is the love of God working in the lives of men. This is the love that may well be the salvation of our civilization."

The world may see the church as hypocritical and intolerant, but we know there is another way to live and be as the body of Christ. It is the way of Beloved Community.

Kimberly Deckel, a priest in the Anglican Church in North America and executive pastor at Church of the Cross in Austin, Texas, wrote this for our consideration:

"The need for healthier churches is undeniable. It requires us to think creatively and to learn from others who have faithfully pressed into this type of work. It is not easy, but it is work rooted in the love of Jesus and the values of his kingdom—and it can help the church be known as a place of peace, justice, and health, as it should be....I believe the principles of beloved community can speak a word of hope to us. By the power of the Holy Spirit, it is possible for this type of community to be realized and for the church to be known for its agape love."

Loving one another with a love that comes from God, may we choose to embrace the model of Beloved Community that Christ modeled, Dr. King taught, and Pastor Deckel affirms.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rhonda Myers

FYI...

Independence Day Weekend-Worship @ 7:30 a.m.

We will be sharing in worship together on July 3rd. But as it is Great American Weekend, the church parking and lawn areas will need to be available later that morning to vendors and their visitors. So we will worship at 7:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. And there will be no Communion served and no Hymn Sing.

Come join us for worship that morning, though, as we celebrate together the gift of our freedom in Christ, the blessing of our nation's freedom to self-govern, and the commemoration of our Presbyterian polity (form of government) as the foundation of our national polity. Our forefathers so believed it represented the ideals of democracy, that they used our Presbyterian polity as the model when forming our national government. Ours is a democratic and representative form of government and we are grateful to have been a valuable part of our nation's founding. May freedom reign on America's shores forever.

Please note: There will be no communion served on July 3rd. We will resume monthly communion in August.

The Transition Team

The Transition Team has been meeting with a Presbytery-sponsored Coach twice a month. One of our key tasks has been to delve more deeply into the CAT report to gain deeper insight into the church's history, identity, and culture. If we are to successfully move into a new day in ministry, we must better understand who we are, how we function, and what it means to be ministry partners in a Beloved Community. We are thankful for all those who've participated in our "Coffee Hour Table Conversations" and we ask that you continue to do so. If you have not participated in these conversations as yet, please make it a point to do so. We need to hear your "voice" if our work is to be thorough and compelling. Look forward to our continued work over the summer and into the fall. We hope to be able to make our recommendations to the Session sometime in the fall. And, to that end, we ask that you please keep the Transition Team in your prayers and participate in the process of discovery as it is laid out for us. Our results are only as good as your contributions afford.

Volunteers Needed

Every volunteer organization relies on the commitments of its members to fulfill its mission. We have a volunteer need that we hope you might consider filling:

• **Livestream media assistant**. We need individuals to help our Livestream media team film and air our worship services. We currently have 4 adults and 1 youth making up the Livestream Team but we need to expand the Team so that they are not always "on call." If you would help us in this way, please contact the church office and we will direct you to the Outreach Chairperson.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

The pandemic has presented financial struggles across the board—to households, businesses, non-profits, and churches alike. But the Finance & Administration Committee would like to give a big "shout-out" of gratitude to all of those who have continued to meet (or exceed) their pledges this year. Because of your generosity, we have been able to maintain worship (in-person and Livestream), keep paying our personnel, do proper upkeep and maintenance on the buildings, keep our mission obligations, assist those in need of care, and reengage some of the ministries we had to "put on hold" for over a year. You have made a difference and we are so grateful for your gifts of time, treasure and talent. Thank you. And we hope you will continue to maintain your pledge over the summer months.



As I write this—on the cool, September-like morning of the summer solstice—the Austin crew is hard at work in the organ loft. It's happening! After all of the trials of the last two years, it's really happening!

We knew this day would finally come, didn't we? As I've been fond of saying lately, faith is not there for decoration. It's there to get used, and ours has had quite a workout.

Once again, let me thank you for your generosity and support for this project. Thanks to you, we shall soon have a pipe organ that should sustain our singing and be a musical beacon to the community for many years to come.

The single largest part of the project is the intensive re-wiring. All of the substandard materials—and all of the good, but very old, materials—are out. New materials are going in. Brian, Jody, and George have stood out as exceptional helpers in this process, facilitating the removal of the old console and wiring. There have been many others, though, including those who have contributed financially and/or by their prayers and good wishes.

The big, obvious items—all of the rebuilt reed pipes, and of course the console—are soon to follow. As soon as I know when, I'll let you know. The pipework that's still in place needs attention, too. Some pipes are still blocked off with scotch tape—I'm not kidding! The single most important rank for hymn leadership, the First Open Diapason on the Great, has not been heard in almost twenty years. I hear the Austin guys blowing through them and murmuring, "Oh, this is going to be great!"

I hope, and I believe, that they're right.

Expect an organ that sounds almost exactly as it did in 1931. There will be no digital voices, including those that recently gave brilliance to the tone. We have been able to add a Swell Mixture which will help in that area, but the organ's basic nature—its DNA—is warm, broad, and sustaining. All options are being left open for the future, including future acquisition of more of the brilliant voices (they are generally called "mixtures"). So the organ, while complete, will also be potentially a "work in progress" to the extent we choose.

A word on the sanctuary piano. The grand piano we've used for so long, a gracious gift of Orra Wood, began to show signs of fatigue over the long winter. The dry air in the sanctuary didn't help, and the built-in humidifier didn't entirely succeed. The piano is resting, pending future action. In the meantime, I'm happy to continue sharing my Yamaha digital piano. Thanks again, and yet again, to Orra for her gift.

Looking forward to continuing our journey.

--Jonathan

FORCE

Vacation Bible School 2022 GForce!

July 19-21, 2022 5-8 PM

Vacation Bible School is an amazing mid-week where kids and volunteers come together to explore God's Word, praise His name and experience lessons through games, food, and crafts.

Kids explore how to put their faith into action. In this mission-focused VBS, kids experience God's unstoppable love and discover how to fuel up and move in and through life with God. Watch kids at your church come alive with movement and images of all sorts of kid-friendly transportation, such as skateboards, running shoes, roller blades, and more! Watch the G-Force meter climb, illustrating how God is at work around the world and how God's people are on the move. The main Bible verse for G-Force VBS is Acts 17:28a, "In God we live, move, and exist." A life with God is one of movement!

Registration is open and we will need adult and teen volunteers, as well as for children ages preschool (age 3 - must be potty trained) through grade 6.

- \$10 Registration for each of 2 children in a single family
- \$25 Family maximum

JOIN THE GFORCE CREW

Combine your talents with our Vacation Bible School GForce Crew this year to create an unforgettable 3 days in July. In addition to our Crew Leaders, we need volunteers to help with music, Bible stories, games, music, crafts, dinner and more.

Crew Leaders: You will be assigned your own group to guide through all activities while forming relationships and helping the children learn more about God.

<u>Music Leaders:</u> Teach and lead our amazing kids through music and movements that help them love worshiping our awesome God.

<u>Games Leaders:</u> Kids have a great time learning different games and running off their energy, guided by our spunky games team! Teach the lesson through movement at this station.

<u>Imagination Station (Crafts & Science) Leaders:</u> Help our students remember the Bible lesson through tactile learning and exploring.

<u>Dinner Crew:</u> All of this learning creates quite an appetite! Join the Dinner Team and feed the masses while helping them experience the Bible lesson through taste.

<u>Decorating Crew:</u> We will have so much fun transforming our church to become a race track/ skate park for our VBS experience! No artistic ability is required; materials and ideas provided.

<u>Teen Helpers:</u> Most of these teams need excited teens to help with kids of all ages. Responsible teens are invited to register and become a positive influence to our younger grades. You will have loads of fun!

Please contact Allison Csernai 845-341-8541 or aaco605@gmail.com



FIRST PRESYBERERIAN CHURCH OF GOSHEN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION (One form per child, please)

*Student First Name:		
*Student Last Name:		-
Age:	Grade just finished:	_
Allergies:		
Medical Issues or Special Needs: _		_
*Parent(s) Name (first and last):		
*Address:		
*City:		
*State:		
*Zip:		-
*Email:		-
*Home Phone Number:		
Cell Phone Number:		
Emergency Contact (first and last n	name):	
Emergency Phone:		
Alternate Pickup (first and last nam	ne):	
Alternate Pickup Phone:		
Medical Release: I give my permiss	sion for the VBS staff to administer basic first aid to my cl nd that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the	hild (named above)
, <u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>	First Presbyterian Church of Goshen permission to use mated above in any manner or form for any purpose la	
	ssion for my child (named above) to attend the Vacation Enformation I give for this registration will only be used by	
Parent Signature	Date	

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS TO:

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

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS TO:

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

HAPPY JULY ANNIVERSARIES TO:

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

HAPPY AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES TO:

- 14 Garfield and Linda Clark
- 18 Logan and Rachael Quick

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 1st, 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 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:

Eugene Tucker Wendy Bynum Wade Ashley Wade

News From Christian Ed...

Friday Night Friends

NOTE: Friday Night Friends will not meet in July. We will be hosting a 3 day **EVENING** mini VBS instead. The mini VBS will be on July 19, 20, 21 (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday). Registration will be at 4:30 p.m. and the fun begins from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Balance of the summer: August **NO** Friday Night Friends (summer vacation). In September we will start up again.

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden





Always meaningful to spend a few precious minutes in the Meditation Garden with our God.

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). See Pat in the office to order yours.

Only ONE Niche Remains 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 2^{nd} and 3^{rd} 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

Nancy Buckley

Barbara and George Hankins

Bill Eustance

July 1 – July 15

July 16 – July 31

August 1 – August 15

August 16 – August 31

September 1 – September 15

CALLING ANY & ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Nancy Buckley

"Helping Hands" are especially needed for our spring clean-up. If you can help maintain our garden, just see Pat in the church office to sign-up and be added to our Steward's schedule.

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	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Linda Boardman	Marlene Gaynor	Diane Church
Nancy Buckley	Bill Powers	Mark Glassé
Geri Corey	Mal Stewart	Jody Kopec
Jennifer Ellis	Anne Wood	Scott Roper
BA Long		_

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Diana Bowe	Allison Csernai	Cecile Ayres
Gina Gruber	Brendan Donohue	Michael Csernai
Carolyn Keller	Patrick Ellis	Carol Gabella
Mary Kopec	Bill Keller	Jennifer Serkes
Jonathan Laskoski	Barbara Schust	

George Schust

Moderator of Deacons: Carolyn Keller

Kevan Ottochian Sue Varden

Cheryl Zis

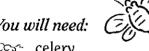
STAFF

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

THE KID'S PAGE



You will need:



ලුදු∻ celery

ැට peanut butter

ලල∻ raisins

ेद्ध् cream cheese

Cost paprika

How to make it:

- Clean celery.
- Cut into 3" long pieces.
- Fill celery with peanut butter.
- Arrange raisins in a row on the peanut butter.

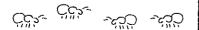
You now have "bugs on a log!"

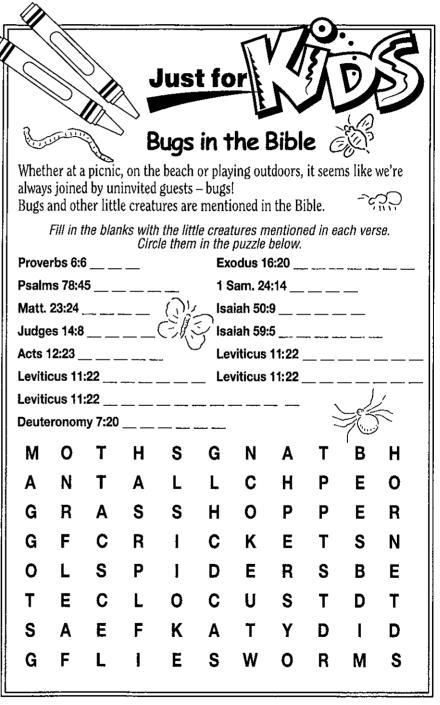




- Fill celery with cream cheese.
- Sprinkle with paprika.

You have "red ants on a log!"





maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket Answer: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet,

Both these activities are available on the CD.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	2		29	30		2
9:30am - Worship Service @	8:30am - GAPNS Camp @	8:30am - GAPNS Camp @	8:30am - GAPNS Camp @	8:30am - GAPNS Camp @	8:30am - GAPNS Camp @	Great American Weekend
10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry		6:30pm - Bell Choir	12:30pm - NA @ FH	
10.30am Conce nour @ 111	12.00pm 14A @ 111	6:30pm - NA @ FH		7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	12.50pm 14A @ 111	
		0.30piii - NA @ FII		7.50pm - Choir Kenearsar @		
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Great American Weekend	Independence Day	9:30am - Food Pantry	6:30pm - NA @ B	7:30pm - NA @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9am - Food Pantry @ Parking
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7:30am - Worship Service @	12:30pm - NA @ FH	6:30pm - NA @ FH	7:10pm - Worship and Music			
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9:15am - Worship Service @	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry	7:30pm - Finance Committee		12:30pm - NA @ FH	
10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	12.000	6:30pm - NA @ FH	7.00pm 7 manoe committee		3:30pm - Wedding Rehearsal	
10.30am - Conee Hour @ Fri					5.50pm - Weduing Kenearsar	
		6:30pm - Outreach				
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		6:30pm - NA @ B				
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10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH		6:30pm - NA @ FH	6:30pm - NA @ B			
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH		6:30pm - NA @ FH	6:30pm - NA @ B			
			7:15pm - Worship and Music			
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7	8	9	10		12	13
9:15am - Worship Service @	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry	7:30pm - Finance Committee		12:30pm - NA @ FH	9am - Food Pantry @ Parking
10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH		6:30pm - NA @ FH				
		6:30pm - Outreach				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
						20
9:15am - Worship Service @	8am - Girls on the Run @ FH	8am - Girls on the Run @ FH	8am - Girls on the Run @ FH	10am - Girls on the Run @ FH	8am - Girls on the Run @ FH	
10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry	7pm - Session @ Zoom		12:30pm - NA @ FH	
		6:30pm - NA @ FH				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH						
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10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH		6:30pm - NA @ FH				
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