

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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“Faith Matters”

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.” (Acts 2:1-2)

Dear Goshen Presbyterian Friends and Family,

We are currently in the season of Pentecost. You no doubt remember the story of the first Pentecost from the book of Acts. On that day, Jesus’ apostles are filled with the Spirit and decide to go down to the marketplace. There, with people from all over the known world, and with the power and voice of the Holy Spirit, they begin to tell the stories of Jesus. And everyone there understands what they’re saying in their own native tongue. The first ministry of the apostles is made possible by the mystery of the Spirit.

This is one of my favorite Bible stories and I often wish we, in the church, would take more time to focus on the presence of the Holy Spirit, not just in the Pentecost story but in many of the places the Spirit shows up in scripture. If we did so, I think one of the things we’d find is that the Holy Spirit is a harbinger of change—sometimes moving like a gale-force wind, sometimes in the whisper of a breath.

Wherever we meet the Holy Spirit in scripture, from the first Creation story, to the dry bones given new life, to the stories of Lady Wisdom, to Jesus’ baptism and time in the desert, to the first time the apostles spoke to the entire world about the good news of Jesus—something amazing is about to happen. The Holy Spirit—God’s Spirit—is uncontrollable. It blows where it wants and, like the wind, can get up in our faces and move creation in unexpected ways.

One reaction to the Spirit’s movement in the Pentecost story is that the people gathered there ask themselves, “How can we understand these Galileans, and in our own languages?!” It gives us pause to wonder: did having the Holy Spirit land on the apostles like tongues of flame change them or change the people who were listening—or both? Possibly opening something in each of *them* to the Jesus story?

As a New Testament people, we trust that the Spirit at work on Pentecost is still at work in the world today—working in us, and in others, to bring healing, hope, and *abundant* life to all creation. When the Apostle Paul was writing to the Galatians, he talked about the fruits of the Holy Spirit being “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” And when we see evidence of these “fruits” in the actions and prayers of believers, we trust that it is the Spirit at work.

What would it be like, I wonder, if we made a covenant with Christ to keep our minds, our hearts, and our souls open to the movement of the Holy Spirit—not just in our own lives, but out in the world? What might happen if we went in search of those places where the fruits of the Spirit are planted and growing? Would the Spirit change us or change the people who hear us testify to Christ—or both? What might the Holy Spirit change in each of us if we made a real effort to share the stories of faithfulness: both the faithfulness of Christ and our faithfulness in Christ?

As we approach the summer weeks of the Pentecost season, may the vision of blue waters and checkered farm fields remind you of the Creator's power, may the warmth of the summer breeze remind you of the warmth of God's love in Christ, and may each breath you take remind you of God's animating Spirit that lives on in each of us. Yes, and may the same Spirit release you from the fear that has gripped the world these last 16 months, lead you to experience the Spirit's work changing you and others with stories of faithfulness, and encourage you to share the fruits of mutual care with the world. By this, the people will know we are Christians, just as the song says.

Friends, the Holy Spirit is a harbinger of change—whether moving like that gale-force wind or in the whisper of a breath. And just as the Spirit is not our enemy but our friend, so too is change not our enemy but our friend. Join us as we share some changes together.

Yours most joyfully,

Pastor Rhonda



Music Notes...

The spring has been beautiful--all the more so because of the rebirth of hope. The handbells have been adorning our worship, and weddings and memorial services are starting to happen again. We are anxious to find a way to resume choral work, and that will happen the moment the green light is given. If you are interested in singing, make a note of that!

I write this a few hours after the celebration of our confirmands. They did a fine job and are all assets to the congregation, and to the community at large. Take Pastor Rhonda's advice and give a big HELLO the next time you see one of them!

The reed pipes of the organ are in Hartford being restored. These are complicated pipes, a far cry from the big, gilded flue pipes you can see in the organ façade. They have a moving part in the bottom section, and after ninety years they need working on. Fortunately we still have digital reeds, so we don't miss the real ones too much.

Other than that, I can tell you that there is a surge of energy and interest at the church, and I think good days are ahead. The Great Fifty Days of Easter have not yet passed, and Pentecost is coming, and life will go on.

Blessings on your journey!

Jonathan

Sunday Evenings in the Park

The Worship and Music Committee is happy to offer a second worship this summer, from June 20th 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. So put it on your calendars and make a point to join us: Sundays @ 6pm from 6/20 to 7/25.

Dialogue on Racism

Our Zoom Discussion Group, Dialogue on Racism, continues to meet on Monday evenings at 7:30pm. Using both a print and a video resource, we are exploring key topics having to do with race and religion in the United States. Well-researched information is brought to life with the lived experiences of people at the center of each topic. For a direct link to the Zoom group, please see the weekly Tower Tie or our Facebook page.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

According to the National Study of Congregations' Economic Practices, 78% of monetary gifts to a church are given during worship services. And when you are not passing the plate in worship due to COVID-19 protocols, the opportunity to share an offering with your church can be greatly diminished. So the Finance & Administrative Committee would like to give a big "shout-out" of gratitude to all of those who have continued to meet (or exceed) their pledges during a challenging year. Because of your generosity, we have been able to keep worship alive, call an interim pastor to serve us, keep the office staffed and the buildings in good order, maintain some of our programs and mission—including the ecumenical food pantry housed in our church. You have made a difference and we are so grateful for your gifts of time, treasure and talent. Thank you.

COVID-19 Protocols

While it's been challenging to remain current with the changing protocols for COVID-19, the Session has tried hard to ease the restrictions as the Governor's office has allowed. By the time you receive this newsletter, you will also have received an email Survey from the Session seeking your input regarding a rollback of restrictions. Please be sure to get this Survey back to us by June 2nd as the Session will have a special meeting that evening to make decisions about worship and building use protocols. Thank you for your patience and your participation!

Congregational Meeting

A special Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, June 6, 2021, at the close of worship, for the purpose of receiving the report of the Nominating Committee and electing Ruling Elders and Deacons to serve the church.

Ordination & Installation of Officers

The next class of Ruling Elders and Deacons will be Ordained and/or Installed during our Sunday morning worship on June 13, 2021. We hope you can join us for that celebration!

Leader Training

All currently serving and new Elders are asked to put the evening of June 15th on their calendars. We will be doing Leader Training together, and will meet by Zoom at 7pm. Leader Training is important to doing our work "decently and in order," as the Presbyterian saying goes. So, it's important to be there.

Sunday School Program

While we can't host our usual end-of-the-year Sunday School program, we will still be sharing with the congregation some of what the children have learned this year, including themes such as: love, grace, courage, and much, much more. On Sunday, June 6th, their work will be on display and we will celebrate their efforts. Come, be a part of our joy!

3rd Graders Receive Bibles

On Father's Day, June 20th, our 3rd Grade Sunday School students will receive a Bible of their own. It's always a special occasion in church life and we hope you can join us.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Benjamin Walsh</i>	11	<i>Lauren Panebianco</i>
3	<i>Kate Laskoski</i>	13	<i>Maggie Calzaretta</i>
4	<i>Dave Paffenroth</i>		<i>Brad McLeland</i>
5	<i>Allison Csernai</i>		<i>Charles Quick</i>
	<i>Shannon Countryman</i>	14	<i>Rob Warner</i>
6	<i>Gary Laskoski</i>	15	<i>Joy Phelan</i>
	<i>Gabriel Van Grol</i>	16	<i>Noah Dinsmore</i>
8	<i>Emma Begnoche</i>	17	<i>Sophie Fontana</i>
9	<i>Jane Geyer</i>		<i>Heather Johnson</i>
	<i>Charlie Phelan</i>	20	<i>Carly Glassé</i>
10	<i>Robert Boardman</i>		<i>Evan McDowell</i>
	<i>Ginny Gallet</i>	21	<i>Carol Phelan</i>
	<i>Deb Hourahan</i>		<i>Carter Person</i>
	<i>June Kreutz</i>	22	<i>Anne Wood</i>
			<i>Orra Wood</i>
		24	<i>Pastor Rhonda Myers</i>
		28	<i>Sue Varden</i>
		30	<i>Cecile Ayres</i>

HAPPY JUNE ANNIVERSARIES TO:

21	<i>Ken and Carol Phelan</i>
30	<i>George and Barbara Hankins</i>

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- ***Karen and David Tice on celebrating their 16 years of marriage by renewing their vows on June 19, 2021 in Spartanburg, South Carolina. May God bless them with many more.***
- ***Our newest members who were confirmed recently: Analiese Boardman, Tyler Csernai, Molly Farley, Ryan Farley, and Lauren Panebianco***



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 Alebras
Ann (Strong) Blake
The Family of Robert Clooney
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
Jerry Westphal
Linda Clark's nephew, Sean Zwart

Susan Ambrsino
Richard Brahs
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
Sam Wallis
The Family of Jo Wolfe

Janet Begnoche
Scott Brinkley
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
Mitch Weintraub
Orra Wood

(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

JUNE UPDATE

The Meditation Garden is open for all!
Enjoy the peace and tranquility our garden can bring...

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 JUNE/early JULY Steward's Schedule:

Bill Eustance	June 1 – June 15
Barbara and George Hankins	June 16 – June 30
Bill Eustance	July 1 – July 15

CALLING ANY & ALL VOLUNTEERS!

“Helping Hands” are always needed and certainly welcomed. 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.


THE KID'S PAGE

Play "Who Am I?"

Play this acting game with your friends or in Sunday school class.

How to play:

1. Before you begin, agree on how many points are needed to win.
2. Choose a person from the Bible. Don't say who it is.
3. Without talking, act out something that your person did.
4. To discover who you are, the other players each ask you one question that can be answered "Yes" or "No."
5. The first person to guess the right answer gets 1 point. If no one gets it right, you get 1 point.
6. Take turns acting out parts until someone wins.



"Who Am I?"

Old Testament Prophets

Some Old Testament books are named after prophets. Discover the names of the prophets below. Use the clues to write the names on the lines. Arrange the circled letters on the bottom blanks to describe what a prophet is.

1. I was called to preach to the people of Ninevah, but I ran from God instead. *My book is number 32 in the Bible.*
I am _____
2. I spoke God's message when the temple was being built. *My book is number 37.*
I am _____
3. Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. *My book is number 28.*
I am _____
4. My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises comfort. *It is book 23.*
I am _____
5. I had dreams and visions. *My book is 27.*
I am _____
6. I was often in danger because of my predictions. I angered officials. *My book is 24.*
I am _____
7. I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. *My book is 30.*
I am _____
8. *My book is 26 and contains descriptions of strange visions.*
I am _____

Prophets are _____

Answers: Jonah, Haggai, Hosea, Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah, Amos, Ezekiel, Messengers.