

# THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the  
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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June 2023



I'd like to thank the choir for its excellent work. You have probably noticed how strongly our music ministers are singing, projecting a good spirit, and supporting worship. This has to do with their personal dedication and love, and their faithful attendance—as much as their circumstances allow—at choir practice.

Thanks as well to the Emmaus Ringers as they conclude another successful year of music and enjoyment. All the same praise applies.

Thanks too for all the support you give this good ministry.

The practice of any serious art form teaches one that technique and expression, the means and the goal, are united much like body and soul. Yet, if I've learned anything from years of teaching music theory, it's that no theory can exhaust the meaning of the music. At the end of the study, the practice, the preparations, is the *experience*. Nothing can fully explain this, yet it makes all the hard work worthwhile.

Consider joining one of our music programs.

The organ is still awaiting a final visit from Austin—but I'm not going to hold back! Something new is on the horizon. Look for a trial series of noontime recitals. Let's see if we can entice local people to come at lunchtime to hear some music, at least one day a week. At the start, I envision organ music, but that may grow to include other instruments over time. We'll have to see how it develops...what sort of response we get.

Forgive me if I sound like Yogi Berra, but *the future of sacred music is the same as it's always been*. An ancient hymn sings of the "sober intoxication of the Holy Spirit," a musical expression that brings joy and communion, clarity and peace—not the "noisy gong or clanging cymbal" that we too often associate with "lively music." Lively music is music that gives *life*, that weakens vice and grows virtue, that points a way past the restlessness and rage, the accusations and excuses, the superficiality and sadness, that seem so inescapable. There is a way forward—it is *the Way*, Christ Himself—and the music we sing grows from that faith.

As we reach another moment of endings and beginnings, let's remember what continues. As we reach another summer, let's take time to relax. Always, let's be thankful for the gift of music—that amazing art that grows from the physics of God's own creation, a hidden gem for us to discover and facet, a treasure and an heirloom and an old familiar friend.

—Jonathan

## Great American Weekend



The rides are back! We will need volunteers to sell the tickets. I will be reaching out for volunteers shortly. The rides will run on Friday, June 30 from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m., on Saturday, July 1 from 12:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. and Sunday, July 2 from 12:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If you could set aside a block of time to help with this major fundraiser, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Mal Stewart

Chair of Finance and Liaison to the Great American Weekend Committee

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### 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:**

*Andrew DeBlock (Linda Clark's nephew)  
Philip Formica (a friend of Carolyn Keller)  
The Family of Dan Powell  
Norman Jones (a friend of Sue Varden)  
Louise Spencer*

The Fellowship Committee invites you to attend



July 15, 2023, 7pm

For \$16 (plus processing fees) you receive:

A box seat ticket to Capitols @ Boulders

Each \$16 ticket purchased gives back \$5 to First Presbyterian Church in Goshen, and once 100 tickets are sold each ticket retroactively gives back \$10! Every ticket comes with a complimentary Boulders Promotional Cap

To purchase tickets: <https://fevogm.com/event/Firstpresbyterian7>

Or scan the QR code:



Questions: Felicia Van Doran  
914-443-4704 \* Feliciav99@yahoo.com

## TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

### **HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS TO:**

1	<i>Benjamin Walsh</i>	13	<i>Maggie Calzaretta</i>
3	<i>Kate Laskoski</i>		<i>Brad McLeland</i>
4	<i>Dave Paffenroth</i>		<i>Charles Quick</i>
5	<i>Allison Csernai</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>	20	<i>Carly Glassé</i>
	<i>Charlie Phelan</i>	21	<i>Carol Phelan</i>
10	<i>Robert Boardman</i>		<i>Carter Person</i>
	<i>Ginny Gallet</i>	22	<i>Anne Wood</i>
	<i>Deb Hourahan</i>		<i>Orra Wood</i>
	<i>June Kreutz</i>	28	<i>Sue Varden</i>
11	<i>Lauren Panebianco</i>	30	<i>Cecile Ayres</i>



### **HAPPY JUNE ANNIVERSARIES TO:**

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

**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 Fellowship Hall on the third Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. (April's Session meeting will be held on zoom)

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.

## **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.

### **Please Pay Your Per Capita Assessment For 2023**

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 **206** and **our assessment per member** (not per family) **for 2023 is \$39.70**, which is a total of **\$8,178.20** 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, 2023. Thanks for doing your share.

### **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.

### **Coffee Hour**

Coffee Hour will continue on Sundays after the worship service during the summer.  
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**



### **JUNE UPDATE**

**Spring has sprung! Enjoy a slice of your day at the Meditation Garden.**

#### **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 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 work hard to keep our garden beautiful!*

##### **The JUNE/EARLY JULY Steward's Schedule:**

Nancy Buckley	June 1 – June 15
Barbara and George Hankins	June 16 – June 30
Bill Eustance	July 1 – July 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.***

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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**

**We strive to be a welcoming, loving church family united by our faith and committed to service in Christ.**

### **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**

Ahaziah, Boaz, Jacob, Zebedee, Zechariah, Gomer, Hosea, Isaac, Jesse, Rebekah, Elkanah, Moses, Hannah, Obad, Zipporah, Rachel, Sarah, Elizabeth, Saul, David, Mary, Zebedee



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
<div>No Church School</div> <div>9:30am - Worship Service @</div> <div>10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH</div>	<div>Memorial Day</div> <div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div>	<div>9:30am - Food Pantry</div> <div>6:30pm - NA @ FH</div> <div>7:30pm - PNC @ B</div>		<div>First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride</div> <div>5pm - Fellowship Committee</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>6:30pm - NA @ FH</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</div> <div>7:30pm - NA @ FH</div>	<div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div>	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<div>9:30am - Church School</div> <div>9:30am - Worship</div> <div>10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH</div> <div>10:30am - Deacon's Mtg. @</div>	<div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div>	<div>9:30am - Food Pantry</div> <div>6:30pm - NA @ FH</div> <div>7:30pm - PNC @ B</div>	<div>3:45pm - Club Z @ B</div> <div>4:30pm - Mission Committee</div> <div>6:30pm - NA @ B</div>	<div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</div>	<div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div> <div>6pm - Friday Night Friends @</div>	<div>9am - Food Pantry @ Parking</div>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<div>First Presbyterian Church</div> <div>George and Barbara</div> <div>Happy birthday!</div> <div>9:30am - Church School</div> <div>9:30am - Worship Service @</div> <div>10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH</div>	<div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div>	<div>9:30am - Food Pantry</div> <div>6:30pm - NA @ FH</div> <div>7:30pm - PNC @ B</div>	<div>Flag Day</div> <div>7:30pm - Finance Committee</div>	<div>10am - GAPNS @ FH</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>6:30pm - NA @ FH</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</div>	<div>10am - GAPNS @ FH</div> <div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div>	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<div>Father's Day</div> <div>Tower Tie Articles Due</div> <div>9:30am - Worship Service @</div> <div>10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH</div>	<div>Juneteenth</div> <div>Office Closed</div> <div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div>	<div>9:30am - Food Pantry</div> <div>6:30pm - NA @ FH</div> <div>7:30pm - PNC @ B</div>	<div>7pm - Session @ FH</div>	<div>6pm - Food Pantry @ FH</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</div>	<div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div>	<div>6pm - Piano Recital @ S</div>
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
<div>9:30am - Worship Service @</div> <div>10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH</div>	<div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div>	<div>9:30am - Food Pantry</div> <div>6:30pm - NA @ FH</div> <div>7:30pm - PNC @ B</div>		<div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</div>	<div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div> <div>4pm - GAW Rides</div>	