

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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1 Corinthians 3:1-9

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Reflection

If this portion of Paul's letter to the young Corinthian church contained only the words of verse 9, I would like it a lot more. "For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building." It's a bit careless with the metaphors (which is it: field or building?), but who can argue with such a sentiment of church unity?

But that's not all there is. There's also Paul's stern characterization of these believers as "merely human." Unlike the '80s English electro-pop synth band The Human League, Paul employs that latter term as an accusation, not a justification. It's very scoldy. Also, it's hard to square with the incarnation. That, in Jesus, God was "born in human likeness" (Philippians 2:7) is a central claim of the gospel, and it's not qualified by any "mere" adjective. The incarnation seems to elevate and dignify being human. So why does 1 Corinthians denigrate it?

Maybe "mere" is a matter of degree. Maybe there are different ways of performing our humanity, and the "mere" variety Paul is chastising here is only the worst. If that's the case, then we should never shrug our shoulders to say we're "only human" whenever jealousy and backbiting get the better of us, because we are created and called to be better than that. In our humanity lies our potential, not our limitations. As a church, we are called to be human in the way Jesus is human, that is, primarily, humbly.

Of flesh and blood we are made, yes. Paul seems to expect the Corinthians—and us—to live up to those ingredients of creation, not down.

Pastor Kingsley

Music Notes



The organ project keeps moving forward. I can't express enough gratitude and appreciation to you. You are doing a great thing for the church and community.

Bravo to everyone involved in the Coffee House. What fun to let our hair down and sing some Beatles!

Bravo to the choir and handbells. You are doing a great job.

Now, may I share my favorite Lenten things with you?

Music: Arvo Pärt, *Passio*. The Estonian-born, Orthodox composer, punished in his native Soviet Union for his Christian faith, has become perhaps the most famous living composer. His minimalist style, which he calls "tintinnabuli," is hypnotically beautiful. *Passio* is the entire Passion narrative of the Gospel of St. John, and for me it is one of the essential sounds of Lent and Holy Week. I can't recommend it highly enough.

Reading: C. S. Lewis, *Christian Reflections*. My favorite essay in this collection is variously titled "Modern Theology and Biblical Criticism" or, more amusingly, "Of Fern Seed and Elephants." It is a short, exhilarating takedown of the discouraging bunk that passes for biblical scholarship. The Anglican author of the *Chronicles of Narnia* is one of the great Christian voices of the modern age. You might also check out *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Great Divorce*, *Mere Christianity*, *The Problem of Pain*, and well...basically everything he ever wrote.

Penance: give up candy. No, I'm serious. I got a headache from reading all the medical literature online discussing the skyrocketing of diabetes, tooth decay, and obesity in America. It's appalling, it's out of control, it disproportionately hurts minorities, and if we focus on "candy" – let's include all sugar-based products, including alcohol—we will instantly gain at least some grip on the situation. It's worth a try.

Scripture: The Book of Psalms. From the earliest days these have been the very lifeblood of Christian spirituality.

See you in church! Thank you for your support. You have my support, too!

Jonathan



REMINDER....

The Presbyterian Women will resume their meetings on Monday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor. All women of the church are members of PW. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending the meeting. All are welcome and encouraged to come and share ideas.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Gina Gruber</i>	17	<i>Charles Velzy</i>
2	<i>Josephine Bartley</i>	21	<i>Mia Van Grol</i>
	<i>Stella Lemmon</i>	24	<i>Maureen Johnson</i>
4	<i>Deborah Spencer</i>		<i>Emily Straube</i>
5	<i>Wendy Paffenroth</i>	25	<i>Lilah Quick</i>
7	<i>Betty Lobb</i>	26	<i>Robin Paulus</i>
9	<i>Karen Magee</i>	28	<i>Tyler Cox</i>
	<i>Logan Fuller</i>	30	<i>Michael Roper</i>
11	<i>Patrick Farley</i>	31	<i>Jack Quick</i>
	<i>Ally Phelan</i>		

HAPPY MARCH ANNIVERSARIES TO:

15 *Bill and Carolyn Keller*

*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.*



DEACONS ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

EAT IN OR TAKE OUT

Saturday, March 21, 2020

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Pasta, Salad, Bread, Beverages and Dessert

\$10.00: Age 12 – Adult; \$5.00: Ages 4-11

Pay at door, no reservations needed

Gluten free available upon request

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

WHEN: SATURDAY, March 28, 2020

TIME: 8:30 - 10:00 A.M. **OR** 10:00 - 11:30 A.M.

WHERE: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GOSHEN

COST: \$8.00 PER PERSON, PAID IN ADVANCE



Included in the price of each paying child's reservation will be tickets for crafts, games, and activities (for children of all ages), and an egg hunt.

The Easter Bunny will be on hand to greet everyone.

**BRING YOUR CAMERA TO CATCH THAT SPECIAL MOMENT ON THE
EASTER BUNNY'S LAP!**

LIMITED SEATING; DON'T DELAY!!

Reservations accepted in the church office through March 21.

Questions? Call 649-1029 or 294-7991

RESERVATION FORM for "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny"

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Preferred Seating Time

on **Saturday, April 6** _____ 8:30 to 10:00 **OR** _____ 10:00 to 11:30

Number of adults
and older children _____

Number **AND AGES** of children participating
in breakfast and activities _____

(Activities include an egg hunt. Please bring your own baskets.)

TOTAL NUMBER X \$8.00 COST PER PERSON = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church, 33 Park Place, Goshen, NY 10924.
Forms and checks can be dropped off at the church office.

MISSION NEWS...

The 21st Annual Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh Walk for Housing is taking place on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at 1:00 pm. Everyone interested in participating, please see Lori Kilmer for a registration/donation form. Please consider participating in this fun 3 mile walk that will take you past many of the houses already built by Habitat. Donations collected will go to PresbyBuild. Donation checks should be made payable to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh with PresbyBuild in memo of check and should be given to one of the team members prior to the walk.



Easter Lilies

If you are interested in ordering an Easter lily for the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one, **please do so by Monday, March 23**. Just fill out the form below and give it to Betty Lobb, Carolyn Keller or Carol Gabella, or place it in the offering plate. The price for each plant is \$13.50 and they can be taken home after the Easter morning service. **If you do not plan to take the plant, please indicate that on the order form so that we may pass it on to a shut-in or leave it to continue to beautify the Sanctuary for a few more Sundays.** Checks should be written to "First Presbyterian Church" with the words "Easter Lilies" in the memo.

Thank you,

Betty, Carolyn, and Carol, co –chairs

Name: _____

Number of plants ordered: _____

Text to be printed in the bulletin

ONGOING REMINDERS...

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SAVE BOX TOPS FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES

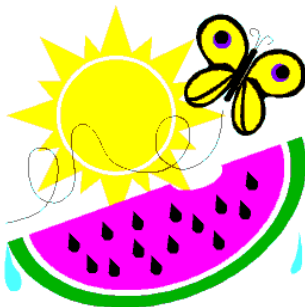
The box tops can be found on many foods and household supplies such as Progresso soups, Betty Crocker products, Scott paper towels, General Mills cereals, etc. There is a box for collection on the table in the Narthex or give them to Carol Gabella.

THE SHOPRITE CARD FUNDRAISER IS ONGOING!

When you buy ShopRite gift cards through the church you can help fund our mission trips. The church sells gift cards at full face value, and we receive a 5% discount from ShopRite when the cards are purchased. See Mark Glasse' on Sundays to purchase them or stop by the church office during the week. Any questions contact Mark at (845) 325-4439 or mpglasse@optonline.net

PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2020

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 **305** and **our assessment per member** (not per family) **for 2020 is \$38.80**, which is a total of **\$11,834.00** to be taken from our operating budget. If you haven't already done so, 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. Thanks for doing your share.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

DEACON'S PICNIC

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2020

We are planning something special this year;

More details next month



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

Brian and Nancy Buckley

Peter Coyne

Everyone serving in the Military

Judy Fazio

Barbara and George Hankins

Carol Hoffman

Regina Kenny

Evelyn Kromm

The Family of Sam LaMontanaro

The Family of Dave McClain

Kevin Murphy

Owen

John and Mary Lee Redman

Karen Saleski

Gary Smith

Barbara Hankins' sister, Virginia Stubenrauch

Lori Kilmer's mom, Learle VanEmburg

Kenneth Van Etten

Sue Whitson

Cheryl Zis

Ed Berry

Richard Brahs Children separated from their mothers at the border

Linda Clark's brother, Bill DeBlock

Jean and Bruce Crandall

James, Max, and Liam Feragola

Charles Fritz

Kevin and Sara Hankins

Susan Johnson

Mary Kopec's cousin, Cathy

Brenda Kujawski

Patricia Lawlor

Evelyn Mercado

Eileen Myslinski

Dave Paffenroth

Carlos and Miarose Reyes

Mary Rita Schlagel

Louise Spencer

The Wade Family

Jo Wolfe

Sharlene Bischof

Barbara Cody

Jon Dollar

Mary Lee Farris and her sister

Charlene Gooden

The Family of Janet Hinckley

Rosemary Joy

Jeff Kott and Natalia

The Kurdish People

Maggie and Quinn

Richard Montalbano

Amy (Thompson) Nguye

Josephine Pecoraro

Carolyn Reynolds

Eva Sickler

Sue Stewart

Christopher Tucker

Charles Velzy

Jerry Westphal

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.)



Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

MARCH UPDATE

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 (right now we only have one).

Only 4 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)

Eventually we will need to construct a 2nd and 3rd columbarium wall.

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 MARCH/early APRIL Steward's Schedule:

Bill Eustance	March 1 – March 15
Barbara and George Hankins	March 16 – March 31
Bill Eustance	April 1 – April 15

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

We could certainly use a few extra “Helping Hands”...

It takes only a few minutes of your time to pick up any litter, pull a weed, sweep a few pavers clean, or gather a few leaves and you too can help keep YOUR garden beautiful! Contact Pat in the church office to sign up and be added to our Steward's schedule.

Call the church office (845-294-7991), Rev. Kingsley, 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 2020

**George Hankins
Deb Hourahan
Barbara Thompson
Sue Varden
Rob Warner**

Class of 2021

**Mark Glassé
Bill Hodges
Lori Kilmer
Ken Phelan
John Redman
Scott Roper**

Class of 2022

**Linda Boardman
Geri Corey
William Eustance
Brad McLeland
Brian Meek
Rob Person**

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2020

**Diane Church
Carol Gabella
Jane Geyer
Gina Gruber
Mary Kopec
Betty Lobb
Charlie von Pentz**

Class of 2021

**Michael Coyne
Allison Csernai
Don Dinsmore
Patrick Ellis
Paty Glassé
Barbara Schust
George Schust**

Class of 2022

**Liese Boese
Margaret Dickover
Jon Hourahan
Jody Kopec
Logan Quick
Felicia Van Doran
Mitch Weintraub**

**Co -Moderators of Deacons: Carol Gabella and Paty Glassé
Presbyterian Women:**

STAFF

**Jonathan B. Hall, Minister of Music
Patricia Schwetje, Church Secretary
Deborah Hourahan, Church Treasurer
Billy Kozireski, Church Sexton
Anne Wood, CLP – Mission Pastor to Sullivan County**