

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, Office Administrator

Telephone: (845) 294-7991; fax: (845) 615-1239
email: fpgoshen@gmail.com
Web Page: www.fpgoshen.org

March 2022

“Faith Matters: Creating a Beloved Community”

“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.” (Romans 12:9-13)

My dear friends,

The season of Lent is often seen as a time to “give up” a vice or an indulgence of some kind, like cigarettes, alcohol, sweets, or too much late night television. Or, it’s seen as a time to take on a spiritual discipline like fasting, meditation, journaling, or yoga. And while those actions *are* beneficial to our human frame—body, mind, and spirit—I am going to suggest that, this year, we consider looking beyond our personal disciplines and covenant to work on creating a beloved community.

Beloved Community was a term first coined by 20th Century American philosopher Josiah Royce. But it was the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who popularized the phrase. He often spoke of a Beloved Community in his speeches and sermons to illustrate God’s kingdom as a *kin-dom*. And while some thought of King’s emphasis on creating Beloved Community as a far-fetched, utopian ideal not to be achieved in our lifetimes, King was known to be hopeful that such a community was possible and he often reflected on the inclusive and healing love modeled by Jesus as he made his way to the cross.

As followers of the Lord who choose to speak and act in a manner consistent with Christ’s own, we don’t have to look much farther than Paul’s letter to the church in Rome to see the Marks of a true Christian, Marks that would help grow a Beloved Community. Paul exhorts us to be loving, honorable, hopeful, prayerful, generous, spiritually “ardent” and hospitable toward strangers.

Contrast that Community with our nation today, where we are more prone to see—and perhaps even feed off of—episodes of anger, disrespect, fear, self-servitude, maintaining our own independence at the expense of the larger community, and extending hostility toward strangers. As the church, we have the opportunity to do as Jesus did—to live in countercultural fashion as a body of believers which refuses to get sucked into a model of aggression that divides rather than unites community. We have an opportunity during Lent to model a way of life that is molded and bonded by the Christian Marks as the Apostle Paul describes them.

It is author Mike Morgan who asserts that, one of those Marks, *Hospitality*, “is a good word to meditate on during Lent. Hospitality makes room for others and welcomes others with open arms. Hospitality says, ‘There is always space for another’ and ‘Everyone should feel warmly welcomed and valued.’ Christian hospitality is demonstrating God’s love toward people who may seem different from us. As God’s beloved community, we get to embody a life of hospitality.”

This Lenten season, may we be a community where all people feel at home among us. Our Outreach Committee is creating Welcome gifts for our guests, but hospitality can’t stop there. I invite you to be intentional about hospitality on Sunday mornings, too; but also, be intentional about fostering a “Beloved Community” in the many neighborhoods you populate—home, church home, Senior Center, workplace, school, civic groups, etc. Look to the Holy Spirit for empowerment as you make this a holy Lent, embodying the hospitality of Christ to all those you encounter.

In keeping with this focus on growing a Beloved Community, we will be celebrating Neighboring Sunday on March 20th at both our 9:30am and 5:00pm services. Invite a Neighbor. Bring a Friend. With arms open wide, welcome in those who love the Lord and offer your love in generous proportion.

From kin to kin, and from one neighbor to another,
Pastor Rhonda Myers

One Great Hour of Sharing

In a world where disaster, hunger and oppression loom on a daily basis, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity. For over 70 years, the Presbyterian Mission Agency has taken an annual special offering to meet the needs of those affected by wars, poverty, natural disasters and more. Starting with an Easter call from the pulpit to help rebuild Europe following World War II in “One Great Hour of Sharing,” the special offering has raised millions to bring peace, healing, and compassion into those places throughout the world where the need is great. The congregation will be asked to consider making a special gift on Easter Sunday to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. And Fish Banks will be distributed to our Sunday School children (and others, too) to share something of our bounty with those whom the world is often inclined to disregard. The fish is representative of Jesus’ miracle of feeding the thousands with a small amount of fish and bread. When Presbyterians give, we can feed and support thousands, too. Putting a fish bank on your kitchen table, or somewhere your family regularly meets, and adding some coins every day is a great opportunity for an object lesson on how we can share some of what we have with others who have very little. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Shop Rite Cards are Back !

We all must eat so why not spend our grocery money for a cause? For every dollar spent, FPC will receive 5% back. NO extra cost to you. See Mark Glassé to purchase them or contact him at (845) 325-4439.

Something Every Sunday This Month!

Communion Sunday—March 6th

It's always a good day when we gather at table with our neighbors to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. There is room for everyone at the table of grace. Join us on March 6th.

Worship with J.O.Y.—Neighboring Sunday—March 20th @ 5pm

Our special services on the 3rd Sunday evening of the month continue in March. In recognition of Presbyterian Pastor, the Rev. Fred Rogers, we will be celebrating our Beloved Community and welcoming our neighbors. Mr. Rogers was an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament for the PC(USA) and was a notable public figure whose work around peace and reconciliation are worth remembering. Rogers was also a pioneer in the world of Christian education and the formation of young children. He talked on his television program, **Mr. Rogers Neighborhood**, about issues of race, inclusion, and peacemaking long before it was commonplace to do so. March 20th was his birthday and it is now the day that the PC(USA) chooses to highlight all we can learn from his work.

Wear a cardigan, if you have one. Bring the family. Bring a neighbor. And join us for a celebration of Beloved Community.

Ash Wednesday

Join us on March 2nd @ 7pm for an Ash Wednesday service. There will be an imposition of ashes for those who care to participate in this portion of the Ash Wednesday devotion.

Zoom Bible Study for Lent

Pastor Rhonda will be leading a Zoom Bible Study for Lent on Monday evenings from 7 to 8pm via Zoom. We will meet from February 28th through April 4th. Using the book ***Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday*** by New Testament Professor Amy-Jill Levine, we will experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother, the Beloved Disciple of John's gospel, Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the 2 men crucified with Jesus, the centurion and the soldiers, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus; Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing. Amy-Jill shows how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play and, from each, we learn how those roles and their messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today. Each Gospel has its own story to tell, all the witnesses have their own memories, and every reader comes away with new insight. Join us as we look to be transformed by reading the story of Jesus' sacrifice in a new way this Lent. Books will be available on the back table of the sanctuary. The purchase price is \$14. Let Pastor know if you will be joining the study so she can add you to the Zoom link.

Other Stuff

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Blue T-Shirt Sunday is scheduled for March 6th. If you've been on a PDA Mission Trip and were given a Blue T-Shirt in thanksgiving for your contribution to the ministry of disaster recovery, please wear it to worship on that day.

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 13th. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour.

Pandemic Protocols have been eased. Please wear a mask when entering or exiting the building, or when moving about. If you feel comfortable doing so, you may remove your masks once seated in a pew or at a table for the Fellowship Hour. We will continue to social distance.

Coffee Hour has returned. Please be in touch with Brad McLeland at bradwm@frontiernet.net if you would like to help by bringing a baked good or children's snack. There is a sign-up sheet on the podium in the Fellowship Hall.

The Transition Team has begun meeting. Please keep the Team in your prayers as we seek to “mine” the data from the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) report and, through conversation and group learning, seek God's guidance on a way forward to the next chapter in the life of our fine congregation. We will be using tools that the Presbytery-assigned coach provides us, such as: intentional listening, growing a partnership, building trust, and being open to an “organic process” which evolves from conversation and discernment of God's will. (Please see the Pastor's Letter in the Annual Report for more information.)

Music Notes...



Life marches on, and we are approaching Lent. The choir and bells will be part of that, God willing! Now we all have to pray together for the organ. If the stars align, we will have glorious organ music soon.

This is the time of year when “winter's back breaks,” as the Farmer's Almanac says. We're almost home free...almost ready for the crocuses and dandelions...the end of the school year...late sunsets and fireflies and toasted marshmallows beckon in the distance...

But first there's Lent. It's coming quickly, on March 2.

One of my favorite pieces of music for Lent is *Passio* by Arvo Pärt. This is a haunting setting of the Passion according to St. John, composed by the most famous living classical composer. It uses his wonderful “tintinnabuli” technique of composition—bell-like overtones—it's wonderful.

The official Pärt website says “...*tintinnabuli* is also an ideology, a very personal and deeply sensed attitude to life for the composer, based on Christian values, religious practice and a quest for truth, beauty and purity.” (www.arvopart.ee)

Arvo Pärt grew up in Estonia under Communism, and despite threats and abuse from the Marxist authorities became a Christian believer. His daring 1967 avant-garde work, *Credo*, got him banned from the Communist party and reduced to working as a janitor. This is both because of its Christian text, and its overt modernism—a political heresy called “formalism,” a musical style not sufficiently “of the people.” (This bizarre, arbitrary rule terrorized many a composer, not only the well-known Shostakovich and Prokofiev, but reaching to such composers as the amazing Ukrainian avant-gardist Sofia Gubaidulina.) Pärt was able to emigrate to the West; today he is back home and practices Orthodox Christianity.

Pärt's other famous pieces include *Spiegel im Spiegel* and *Für Alina*. My favorite is *Spiegel im Spiegel* (“Mirror in the Mirror”). It's easy to find online, and it's magic—go listen!

There is a deep spirituality in Pärt's music, an abiding faith in the uniqueness of the single note—or the single person. It is this sweet individualism—flourishing in a community, not stifled in a collective—that makes Pärt such a voice for the free human spirit, and for the Christian listener.

Surely this is perfect Lenten music!

Looking forward to happy times,

Jonathan

SAVE THE DATE and CALL FOR TALENT

*Unity Build Talent Show
Saturday, May 21*

To benefit Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh

Unity Build represents a group of area Episcopalian, Methodist, Presbyterian, as well as other congregations that will jointly fund a home construction project for a Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh family. A talent show will be held at **First Presbyterian Church in Goshen** on **Saturday May 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm.** with proceeds going toward the new *Unity Build*.

We are looking for groups and individuals from area churches that would like to perform. The performances could be musical, theatrical, or spoken word. They will need to be relatively brief as we want to keep the overall length of the show to about 90 minutes.

It is intended that the show will be held in the large church sanctuary. Strict Covid safety protocols will be observed including the ability to move the performance outdoors, as appropriate.

Please contact Sue Varden for more information at: svarden@hvc.rr.com or (845) 649-7830.

Financial Commitments

If you haven't made a financial commitment for 2022 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.

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 in our Weekly Tower Tie.

Please Pay Your Per Capita Assessment For 2022

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 **268** and **our assessment per member** (not per family) **for 2022 is \$38.83**, which is a total of **\$10,406.44** 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, 2022. Thanks for doing your share.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS TO:

1 <i>Gina Gruber</i> 2 <i>Josephine Bartley</i> <i>Stella Lemmon</i> 5 <i>Wendy Paffenroth</i> 7 <i>Betty Lobb</i> 9 <i>Karen Magee</i> 11 <i>Patrick Farley</i> <i>Ally Phelan</i>	16 <i>Bill Powers</i> 22 <i>Paige Gallet</i> 24 <i>Maureen Johnson</i> <i>Emily Straube</i> 25 <i>Lilah Quick</i> 26 <i>Robin Paulus</i> 31 <i>Jack Quick</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.*



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, April 4.** Just fill out the form below and give it to Carolyn Keller or Carol Gabella , or place it in the offering plate. The price for each plant is \$16.50 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,
 Carolyn and Carol, Co- Chairs

Name: _____

Number of plants ordered: _____

Text to be printed in the bulletin

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 if 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:

Steve Coon
Doug and Sue
Esther Glassé
Gail
Gordan
Kevin Hankins
Carol Hoffman
Mary Kopec
Nancy
Wendy Paffenroth
Tom and Billie Sargeant
Tina
Molly Young

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

WHEN: SATURDAY, April 2, 2022

TIME: Pancake Breakfast to be served from 8:30 - 11:15 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt will be at 10:00 a.m. & 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 crafts, games, and activities (for children of all ages), and a ticket for 1 egg hunt time.
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 25.

Questions? Call 649-1029 or 294-7991

RESERVATION FORM for "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny"

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Preferred Egg Hunt Time _____ 10:00 **OR** _____ 11:30

Please bring a basket

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.

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden



MARCH UPDATE

Welcome Spring, welcome Spring!
Our garden starts to awaken with the beginnings of new 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 have **FIVE** orders).

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 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 ANY & ALL VOLUNTEERS!

“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.

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
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
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, Office Administrator
Deborah Hourahan, Church Treasurer
William Kozireski, Church Sexton
Mitch Weintraub, Church Sexton

THE KID'S PAGE

Make a Snack to Share With a Friend

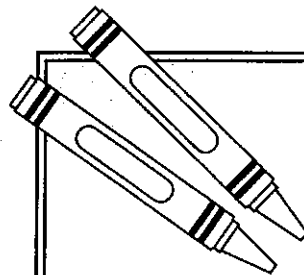
You will need:

- 🍴 large bowl
- 🍴 small bowl
- 🍴 spoon
- 🍴 fork
- 🍴 4 cups toasted oat cereal
- 🍴 1 can (6-1/2 oz.) peanuts*
- 🍴 1 cup raisins
- 🍴 1/4-cup margarine
- 🍴 1 package (6 oz.) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 🍴 plastic sandwich bags

How to make the treats:

- Mix the cereal, peanuts* and raisins in the large bowl.
- Melt the margarine in the small bowl using a microwave oven. (*Please ask an adult to help with this step.*)
- Pour the margarine over the cereal mixture.
- Use the fork to lightly toss the mixture until it's coated with margarine.
- Sprinkle the chocolate chips into the mixture and toss again.
- Spoon the mixture into the bags and share them with friends for a snack.

**Caution: Some people are very allergic to nuts. You can leave the peanuts out if you need to.*

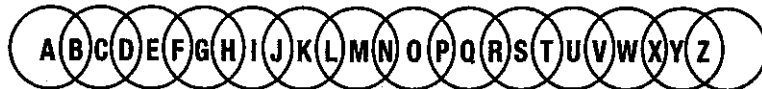


Just for KIDS

How to Treat Others

How does God want us to get along with other people? Ephesians 4:32 tells us. To find out what it says, use the code to fill in the blanks.

CODE:



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

"

1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10

3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5

8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10

5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3

3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11

"

Answer: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
9:30am - Church 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - 12pm - Academy	12:30pm - NA @ FH	First Day of Women's 9:30am - Food Pantry 7pm - Worship/Music	4:30pm - Mission 6:30pm - NA @ B 7pm - Ash Wednesday	6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir	12:30pm - NA @ FH	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30am - Church 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Deacon's	12:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Book Study @	9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Outreach	7:30pm - Finance	6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir	12:30pm - NA @ FH 6pm - Friday Night	9am - Food Pantry @
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Daylight Saving Time 9:30am - Church 9:30am - Worship	12:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Book Study @	9:30am - Food Pantry	7pm - Session @ Zoom	St. Patrick's Day 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir	12:30pm - NA @ FH	1pm - Bridal Shower @
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Tower Tie Articles Due 9:30am - Church 9:30am - Worship 5pm - Special Service	12:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Book Study @	9:30am - Food Pantry		6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9am - Food Pantry 2pm - NA Speaker Jam
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
9:30am - Church 9:30am - Worship	12:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Book Study @	9:30am - Food Pantry		6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir	12:30pm - NA @ FH	Bunny Breakfast Spaghetti Dinner @ FH