

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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March 2023

Faith Matters

... 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 12:10–13

To all my Goshen Presbyterian friends and family,

As you read this letter, the *holiest season* of the Christian calendar is upon us. The season of Lent is a time dedicated to spiritual renewal as we seek to grow in our relationship with God and neighbor. For many, Lent is often a time to give up something—perhaps a vice or an indulgence—or it is a time to take on a discipline which would open us to the blessings of faithful living—such as fasting or meditation.

And while both “giving up” and “taking on” are good Lenten disciplines, what if, instead, we spent Lent this year looking beyond our own personal disciplines to work together toward the goal of building a *beloved community* here in Goshen?

While it was 20th century American philosopher Josiah Royce who coined the phrase, “beloved community,” it was the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who put the phrase into regular use. King often spoke of “beloved community” to illustrate God’s kingdom as a *kin-dom*. The word *kin-dom* better reflects the mission of the Church than does the word kingdom because it moves us away from a top-down understanding of power and control to a more level plain where there is kinship among participants – where those long-silenced have a voice and those often overlooked are recognized.

King’s beloved community was not some far-fetched utopia, but an attainable society based on justice for all and selfless love of one another. For King, a community became “beloved” when every person had their basic needs met.

Donna Frischknecht Jackson has prepared a Lenten devotional at the request of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and she entitled it “Beloved Community” with a nod to Dr. King. It was her intention as a spiritual leader to help us consider what such a community would look like if put into practice. In her introduction to the study, she wrote:

“As Americans, many of us feed off of anger, disrespect, fear, serving ourselves, seeking quick results, maintaining independence and extending hostility to strangers. Yes, you read that correctly — hostility to strangers. Don’t believe me? Have you not opened your social media news feed today? As the church, we have

an amazing opportunity to model for our culture how to live in a community that is held together by mutual affection, honor, passion, service, hope, patience, perseverance, generosity, and hospitality.

“Hospitality is a good word to meditate on during Lent. Hospitality makes room for others and welcomes 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.”

For this season of Lent, Frischknecht Jackson has compiled devotions written by a wide swath of Christian leaders who highlight what it means to be a beloved, welcoming community where all people are made to feel at home. These devotions will be published daily throughout Lent and Holy Week to all those who are on our weekly Tower Tie list. If you would like to receive these devotions and they have not yet begun appearing in your daily email, please contact the church office at fpgoshen@gmail.com and we will be sure to add you to the distribution list.

Friends, during this season of longing and belonging, remember that ours is a welcoming God who goes to great lengths to welcome us. It is this God who invites us to make a home in Christ. Yes we, who were once strangers, are truly embraced by a grace-filled hospitality that never loses sight of us but always invites us into the kin-dom. In thanksgiving for that blessed welcome, may we seek the embodiment of the Holy Spirit in offering hospitality to all those we encounter this Lenten season.

With welcoming love,
Pastor Rhonda Myers



Lion or lamb...March is upon us! We have St. Patrick’s Day, the spring equinox, and the Annunciation (9 months to next Christmas!) this month. Musically, we express the spirituality of the season of Lent. There are voices that seek to remove from Lent all self-reflection, introspection, and yes, penance, but this spiritual housecleaning—the setting aside of pleasure to make room for happiness—makes deep human sense and is rooted in the season. The music honors this, not by being lugubrious (the dreaded “dirge” we hear tell of) but by moving us to reflection. That can be done in many ways, of course.

My own experience in sacred music goes back to my childhood—learning those new folksy songs for First Communion—but also hearing something higher, older, and frankly more enduring on Sundays, as well as in my father’s Episcopal church. Today we sing, at the very most, one or two of those “ditties,” and the rest would be met with eye-rolling...or worse...that’s the inevitable fate of a fad. But we still sing “Now Thank We All Our God,” and God willing we still mean it!

Some of the newer music has lasted, at least till now. For example, there is the Taizé music (pronounced *tay-ZAY* or *teh-ZAY*, by the way, not *tah-* or *tie-*). Done in its intended manner, with many leisurely repetitions, it can create a space for contemplative prayer and deep community. Sung standing, with two or three quick prattle-throughs, it achieves little or nothing. The village of Taizé, in southern France, has been home to an ecumenical Protestant community since the days of World War II. They use repetitive prayer—often in Latin, but also in a mix of modern tongues—to calm, settle, and unite the many visitors and permanent members.

This music seems to have found a home in many churches, but one hopes that the full and proper context may be present too.

During the twentieth century, most Protestant hymnals expanded their resources to include hymns of other denominations, as well as hymns drawn from *legitimate* folk sources. The best example of the latter is a tune like KINGSFOLD, often sung as “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say.” This is an old folksong from the English countryside, and proved its worth by transmission over long, anonymous years. Other trends—like the including of Welsh tunes in an English hymnal—seem very obvious now, but weren’t so obvious in, say, 1906,

when Ralph Vaughn Williams broke that barrier. The question is always quality: can this music express faith, or does it only demonstrate that we Christians also listen to the radio?

The story continues, and so does the song. Enjoy a meaningful and songful Lent.

--Jonathan

NEWS FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION...

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

This is our new Mission Statement adopted last month by the Session. It appears on the back of the cover of this year's Annual Report. We feel that it concisely and accurately represents who we are as a church at this moment in time. Our previous Mission Statement was 60 words and was adopted by the Session over 25 years ago.

In January Session approved the 2023 church budget. The \$396,341.36 budget has a projected deficit of \$17,000. That doesn't necessarily mean that we will have a deficit at the end of 2023. In 2022, we had projected a deficit but ended the year with a \$5,632.37 surplus.

Elders have also approved, in an executive session, extending its contract with our Interim Pastor the Rev. Dr. Rhonda Myers another six months to September 16, 2023. The motion reads: “To extend the pastor's contract six months and beyond that in optional extensions of three month increments.” The majority of Elders feel it is important to keep Pastor Myers in place until the church calls a new pastor and although we now have a working Pastor Nominating Committee, no one knows for sure how long that process will take. It took the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee eight months to find an Interim Pastor for us. Following Presbyterian Polity, a contract with an Interim or Transitional Pastor is between the Session and the Interim. In other words, the Session hires and determines the salary of an Interim Pastor. When we have a called and installed pastor in place, the contract will be between that Pastor and the congregation. In other words, the Congregation votes to hire the Pastor and votes each year on the pastor's salary. (as we did with Pastor Kingsley).

As most everyone knows, we are looking for a new Clerk of Session. I will be retiring from the job in June. Presbyterian Polity requires that a Clerk of Session be an ordained Elder... someone who has served at one time or another as an Elder in a Presbyterian Church. In our church, the position comes with a stipend of \$2,828 a year. The Presbytery of the Hudson River puts out a guide, “Handbook for Clerks of Session” that contains almost everything you'd need to know. There is also a yearly educational meeting “Clerk of Session Day” for all Clerks in our Presbytery. It will be a zoom meeting this year on Sunday afternoon, April 30. If an Elder, currently on Session or not, thinks he or she may be interested in the position, please see Rev. Myers or myself

Don't forget that regular Session meetings are open to all church members. We meet in Fellowship Hall on the third Wednesday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. and usually concluding at 9 p.m. Observing a Session meeting will give you an idea of how decisions are made. If you'd like to address the Session, you will need to let either the Clerk of the Pastor know prior to the beginning of the meeting. The March meeting will be on zoom.

Sue Varden

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS TO:

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

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 20.** 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 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:

*Landon Schust and Family
Alan Thompson
Orra Wood
Jean Crandall
Andrew DeBlock (Linda Clark's nephew)
David Kingsley
Linda Boardman
Carol Gabella
Randy Faurot
Carol Hoffmann's daughter, Krista
Pastor Rhonda Myers*

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

WHEN: SATURDAY, March 25, 2023

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 18.

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 _____ Number **AND AGES** of children participating
and older children _____ 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.

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 hosts are needed. Please contact Diane Church at 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.

Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 12th. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour.

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden



MARCH UPDATE

**Feel free to spend time on a warmer March day in the garden
with your thoughts, prayers and 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.

The Memorial Columbarium

The LAST niche has been purchased in the Memorial Columbarium wall.

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.

“Stewards of Our Garden”

Special thanks to our dedicated Stewards who continue to keep our garden beautiful!

The MARCH/EARLY APRIL Steward’s Schedule:

Nancy Buckley	March 1 – March 15
Barbara & George Hankins	March 16 – March 31
Bill Eustance	April 1 – April 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.

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

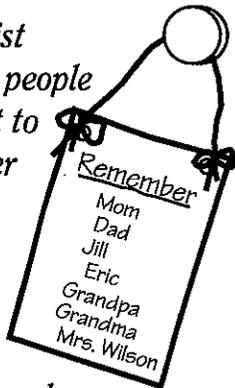
STAFF

**Jonathan B. Hall, Minister of Music
Patricia Schwetje, Office Administrator
Deborah Hourahan, Church Treasurer
William Kozireski, Church Sexton
Matt Kopec, Church Sexton**

THE KID'S PAGE

Make a Prayer List

Make a list of all the people you want to remember in your prayers.



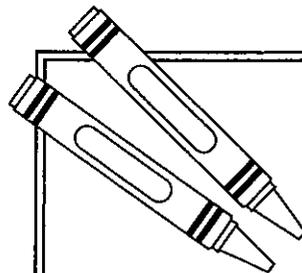
You will need:

- piece of poster board (approx. 9" x 12")
- markers or crayons
- yarn or ribbon (approx. 10")
- paper-punch

How to make it:

- Punch a hole in the top corners of the cardboard.
- Tie the ribbon or yarn to the holes to make a hanger.
- Write the names of people you care about on the cardboard.
- Decorate with markers or crayons.

Hang your list near your bed, so you can see it when you say your prayers at night.



Just for KIDS

Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

In Luke 11 Jesus taught his disciples to pray:

"Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation."

In the puzzle below, find and circle the words from the prayer above. (Note: If a word is in the prayer more than one time, it is used only once in the puzzle.) → ↓

G	K	A	G	A	I	N	S	T	D	T	O
I	U	F	O	R	D	F	A	T	H	E	R
V	D	A	Y	E	A	C	H	S	T	W	W
E	A	I	B	E	N	L	S	C	E	G	S
H	I	O	R	E	S	E	Y	O	M	H	F
O	L	U	K	V	I	A	O	M	P	A	O
U	Y	S	I	E	N	D	U	E	T	L	R
R	B	N	N	R	S	N	R	A	A	L	G
W	R	O	G	Y	S	A	A	L	T	O	I
H	E	T	D	O	B	M	N	S	I	W	V
O	A	W	O	N	O	E	D	O	O	E	E
F	D	E	M	E	I	N	T	O	N	D	B

[Note: A completed puzzle is in a file called KID0304BB on this month's CD and on the Web site: www.NewsletterNewsletter.com]

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Congregation 10:30am - Congregational	27 12:30pm - NA @ FH	28 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH	1 First Day of Women's History 4:30pm - Mission Committee 6:30pm - NA @ B	2 5pm - Fellowship Committee 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - NA @ FH	3 World Day of Prayer 12:30pm - NA @ FH	4
5 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Stone Soup	6 12:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Book Study @ Zoom	7 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:10pm - Music & Worship @ 7:30pm - PNC @ FH	8 7:30pm - Finance Committee	9 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	10 12:30pm - NA @ FH 6pm - Friday Night Friends @	11 9am - Food Pantry @ Parking
12 Daylight Saving Time starts 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Deacon's Mtg. @	13 12:30pm - NA @ FH	14 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ B	15 7pm - Session @ Zoom	16 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	17 St. Patrick's Day 12:30pm - NA @ FH	18
19 Tower Tie Articles Due 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	20 Deadline to order Lilies 12:30pm - NA @ FH	21 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - PNC @ FH	22 7:15pm - GAPNS Mtg. @ FH	23 6pm - Food Pantry @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	24 Set-up for Bunny Breakfast 12:30pm - NA @ FH	25 8am - Bunny Breakfast @ FH,
26 Congregation Coffee Hour @ 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	27 12:30pm - NA @ FH	28 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - PNC @ FH	29	30 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	31 12:30pm - NA @ FH	1