

# THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the  
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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March 2024



Happy Lent! Is Lent happy? Yes, of course it is. A reduction in *fun*—giving things up and/or taking on a spiritual discipline—doesn't mean less *happiness*. In fact, "fun," whatever exactly that is, can get in the way of happiness. Lent is that annual spring cleaning that reminds us that oftentimes less is more.

I've personally never met an Ash Wednesday I didn't need.

I want to address a misunderstanding that pops up about sacred music. There is a fallacy—it's been around for most of my lifetime—that pits excellence against authenticity, doctrine against kindness, truth against compassion, classic hymnody against "liveliness" ..the list goes on. In short, the false impression of an *either/or*.

The truth is that these things cannot be pitted against each other. Authenticity demands excellence and vice versa. Pastoral kindness must lead somewhere in the end. Classic hymnody pulsates with rhythmic life. Organists aren't all stuffy. Formality accords with joy. Personally. I deal in the *both/and*.

Take three classic hymns—A Mighty Fortress; Holy, Holy, Holy; Love Divine, All Loves Excelling. These were written at different times, according to different theologies, and reflecting different musical cultures. (The first is by Luther, to Psalm 46; the second a collaboration of two Anglican priests, quoting Revelation; and the third a text by Wesley, ranging all over the New Testament, to a tune from an 1844 Welsh-language hymnal.)

But this diversity—so obvious—does not call attention to itself; it isn't proud of itself. There is a common thread in all three hymns, a deep agreement about the nature of the Godhead, the centrality of Scripture, the glorious destiny that awaits the faithful, and the way Christians ought to worship. Under the diversity, unity. From the unity, diversity. Always, God first.

The musical forms are notably different too: don't let familiarity blind you. Also, the rhythms, while definitely "lively," aren't all fast or "high energy." It's questionable on several levels whether the contemporary "high energy" style is good for our faith at all. Some music isn't as good for worship, especially if the style is conceived in a contrary spirit.

The idea that "young people" automatically want church music to be identical to the openly un-Christian music heard the rest of the time is a massive assumption, and frankly a disservice.

We embrace a wider diversity now, but our risk of misunderstanding grows at the same time. I can't shake the memory of a long, fruitless "cat and mouse session" with a former church member who insisted that "His Eye Is On the Sparrow" *has* to be at a "barn-burning" fast tempo. No ifs, ands, or buts. Take any hymn, and whether it needs it or not, "pump it up." Period.

I learned that hymn in the African-American churches of the South Side of Chicago, over thirty years ago. It's not a barn burner; even YouTube agrees. My tempo is just about the same as that of Tennessee Ernie Ford, so take it up with his estate!

Yet no matter how patiently and diplomatically I explained that hymn, *and* hymnody, *and* music theory, *and* musicianship, I couldn't win.

Here's an idea. If you want to "get your blood pumping" on Sunday, you could exercise at home and then bring your best wide-awake self to worship. (Personally, I favor coffee.) If you like pop music, you have almost 24/7 in which to enjoy it. On the Lord's Day, why not invite what one ancient hymn calls "the sober intoxication of the Holy Spirit"? Temper the raw physical impulses with spiritual guidance.

Using church for "waking up" only makes sense in the integrated way of which St. Augustine speaks when he says "the glory of God is man fully alive." That's much, much more than lifting up a favorite bit of entertainment. It involves awakening the soul, what Augustine calls the "turning" to God's eternal "let there be light."

May your Lent be full of that holy light...and lots of holy music.

--Jonathan

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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 11.** 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

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Text to be printed in the bulletin

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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. We have changed 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:***

*The Kingsley Family*

*Nancy Mason, who is in rehab and is improving every day*

*Sara Simas, who is in rehab dealing with a health issue*

*Robert Ryan, a friend of Jody Kopec*

*Judy Green and Family on the death of LeRoy*

*Kathy Jones and Family on the death of Stark*

*Jose Hernandez*

*The Family of John Caramanica who passed away. He is Kim Hodges cousin.*

*Kevan Ottochians's Dad*

*Joan Clifford, a friend of Jody Kopec*

*Wendy Paffenroth who had knee replacement surgery on February 22.*

*Jerry Lanuti*

### **Pastoral Care**

While we are without a permanent pastor, John Redman will handle any pastoral care requests.

You can reach him at 914-474-0722.



### **PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

**Palm Sunday – March 24 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Maundy Thursday Service – March 28 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Good Friday – March 29 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday Worship Service – March 31 – 9:30 a.m.**

## **NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE.....**



The Palm Sunday Coffee Hour will include, once again, a session on creating crosses out of palm leaves. Come join us for the fun and take home a palm cross.

We will be having an Easter Coffee Hour with contributions from the congregation. Coffee, tea and juices will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. Come join us after the service.

We are planning another Jo Wolfe Dinner Club on June 2. So set the date aside. The restaurant will be announced soon. Bingo will be back in April.

The Outreach/Fellowship Committee will meet on March 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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.**

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**SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 5**

**A Tastefully British Fish & Chips Dinner in Fellowship Hall**

**5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Take Out or Dine In**

**To benefit Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh**

**More information to come.**

**If you can help contact Mission Committee members:**

**Nancy Buckley, Geri Corey, Diane Church, Carol Gabella, George Hankins, Carolyn Keller, or 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>
15	<i>William Signorelli</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.*

### **Guest Preachers for March**

March 3 – Lynn Costa

March 10 – Jody Kopec

March 17 – Michael Coyne

March 24 – Bill Keller

March 31 – Rev. Jeff Leininger

**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 parlor on the third Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m.

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 2024 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 2024**

**A message from the Treasurer:** Please consider paying your **per capita assessment for 2024** to offset the more than \$8,000 the church must pay out to cover expenses for the Presbytery of Hudson River, Synod of the Northeast and General Assembly of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This year it remains at **\$39.75 per member** (not per family). 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, 2024. Thank you for doing your share to support the expense of being a church in active ministry.

## **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.

## **Daylight Savings Time**

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour.

## **Tuesday Organ Recitals**

The Tuesday recital series is suspended at least through March. Jonathan hopes to resume after that time. Watch this space for further developments and thanks for your support!

# BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

**WHEN:** SATURDAY, March 23, 2024

**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 16.*

*Questions? Call 649-1029 or 294-7991*

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## **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**

#### **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**

**PLEASE NOTE:** A niche in the Memorial Columbarium has become available. If you are interested in purchasing it, please contact Pat in the church office.

The price of the niche is \$2,800. There are two payment options:

12 month = \$250/month for 12 months (\$3,000)

18 month = \$180/month for 1 month (\$3,240)

**Once this niche is sold, the Session/Congregation will need to consider if constructing a second/third wall is desired and/or financially possible. If it is, a new estimate for the work will need to be created, considered, approved and project timeline established.**

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#### **“Stewards of Our Garden”**

*Special thanks to our dedicated Stewards who work hard to keep our garden beautiful!*

#### **The MARCH/and early APRIL Steward’s Schedule:**

Bill Eustance	March 1 – March 15
Barbara and George Hankins	March 16 – March 31
Nancy Buckley	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.***

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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 2024**

**Marlene Gaynor  
George Hankins  
Bill Powers  
Mal Stewart**

#### **Class of 2025**

**Diane Church  
Linda Clark  
Jody Kopec  
Felicia Van Doran**

#### **Class of 2026**

**Jennifer Ellis  
Michael Coyne  
Jon Hourahan  
Kevan Ottochian**

**Clerk of Session: Felicia Van Doran**

### **BOARD OF DEACONS**

#### **Class of 2024**

**Patrick Ellis  
Bill Keller  
Barbara Schust  
George Schust**

#### **Class of 2025**

**Cecile Ayres  
Michael Csernai  
Carol Gabella  
Jennifer Serkes**

#### **Class of 2026**

**Diana Bowe  
Carolyn Keller  
Cheryl Zis  
Sam Fontana**

**Moderator of Deacons: Carolyn Keller**


### **STAFF**

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

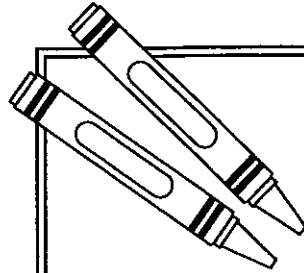
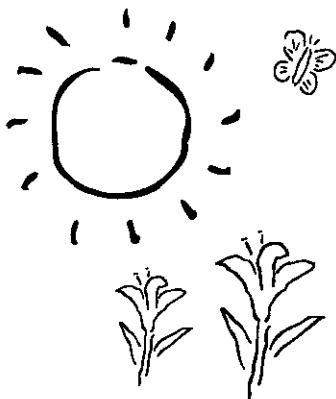
## THE KID'S PAGE

# Paint Some Stones!



- ✿ Gather some smooth gray stones.
  - ✿ Use tempera paints to paint Easter symbols on the stones.
  - ✿ Some Easter symbols are:
    - cross
    - lily
    - butterfly
    - sun
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- ✿ After the paint is dry, brush on clear varnish.
- ✿ Let dry overnight.
- ✿ Use large stones for paper weights. Small stones can be carried in your pocket as a “Resurrection Reminder!”



## Just for

**“... and on the third day”**

Jesus died upon a cross and was buried in a tomb. When the women went there with burial spices on the third day, what did they find?

**Follow the arrows.  
Fill in the blanks.**

**Begin →**

Begin →										T	H	E	A										
										B	S	T	O										
										M	O	C	N										
										T	H	R	E										
R	O	O	D	E	F	W	P	R	O														
E	A	F	S	G	Y	A	S	H	L														
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										E	R	E	R										
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										A	I	S	N										
↓ ←										→ End													

➔ **End**

**Luke 24:6**

Answer:  
The stone was rolled away from the door. An angel said to them, "He is not here, he has risen."

ANSWER:

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Congregational Mtg. @	12:30pm - NA @ B	9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B			First Day of Women's History 12:30pm - NA @ B	12pm - NA Event @ FH, K
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Worship/Music 12pm - Cub Scouts @ FH 2pm - Club Z @ B	12:30pm - NA @ B	9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 6:30pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - Outreach Committee @ 7:30pm - PNC @ B	4:30pm - Mission Committee @ P 6:30pm - NA @ B 7pm - GAPNS @ FH	6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P 7:30pm - NA @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ B 6pm - Friday Night Friends @ FH	9am - Food Pantry @ FH
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Saving Time starts 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Deacon's Mtg. @ B 10:30am - Stone Soup Luncheon	12:30pm - NA @ B	9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 5:30pm - Outreach/Fellowship 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B	7:30pm - Finance Committee @ P	6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal @ S 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P	12:30pm - NA @ B	1pm - Diva Dance @ FH, K
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day Tower Tie Articles Due 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ B	9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B	7pm - Session @ P	6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P	12:30pm - NA @ B	Set-up for Palm Sunday Brkfst. 8:30am - Easter Bunny Breakfast
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Palm Sunday 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Palm Sunday Brunch @	12:30pm - NA @ B	9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B		6pm - Food Pantry @ FH 7pm - Maundy Thursday Service	12:30pm - NA @ B 7pm - Good Friday Service @ S	1pm - Diva Dance @ FH, K
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Easter Sunday 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	Easter Monday Office Closed 12:30pm - NA @ B	9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - Outreach Committee @ 7:30pm - PNC @ B	4:30pm - Mission Committee @ P 6:30pm - NA @ B	6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P 7:30pm - NA @ FH	12pm - Fish and Chips Dinner @ 12:30pm - NA @ B	Kingsley Memorial Service