

# THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the  
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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May 2021

## Faith Matters A Message from Pastor Rhonda—May 2021

**“Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with  
energy, intelligence, imagination and love?”**

*(A Constitutional Question Asked Upon Ordination in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.)*

Dear Friends,

It has been my delight getting to know members of this wonderful congregation; and I hope that if we haven't had a chance to meet yet, we will be able to do so in person or by Zoom at some point soon.

Later this spring, we will celebrate the Ordination and Installation of a new class of Elders and Deacons, and one of the questions they will be asked at that time is this: “Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with *energy, intelligence, imagination and love?*”

This is, perhaps, my “favorite” of all the ordination questions because it encourages us to be open to God's Spirit of Wisdom and Grace, promising to approach new opportunities in ministry with passion while embracing the future with intentionality and Christian care.

The Rev. Dr. Steve Yamaguchi, Former Executive Presbyter of Los Ranchos Presbytery in California, encourages congregations in transition to use this interim time to ‘unleash our godly **energy**, engage our **intelligence**, fire up our holy **imagination** and ground our **love** in thankfulness.’ He believes the best way to manage change in the church is through conversations that draw out positive memories while prayerfully envisioning a new era in congregational life.

Such conversations often begin with small group discussions about what we appreciate in the church we love and how to bridge the best of “what is” toward “what might be.” Using questions designed to provide a springboard for holy imagining, participants help craft a narrative about church life which speaks to its values, its passions and its mission. These questions are as unique as each congregation itself, but might include some like these:

- What do you value most about your experience in this church?
- What would you like to see carried forward?
- What would this church look like if our wildest dreams for ministry were realized?
- What would you like to say about this church and what it has meant to you? To the community?

God has brought us together for a holy purpose: to embrace a new day in ministry. And one of my responsibilities as your Interim Pastor is to get the process of transition rolling, with God's help and your support.

Therefore, it is with a humble, yet passionate, heart that I invite you to join me in praying for our congregation every day and, when the time comes, to participate in a process of discovery that the Session and I believe will help further our God-given purpose to be a vital congregation of faithful believers in Jesus Christ, our Easter Lord.

With great thanksgiving and much joy,

*Pastor Rhonda*

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### **Music Notes...**

It's great to have the handbells back, isn't it? Hopefully the choir will soon return as well. To all of you who participate, and to all who appreciate, my sincere thanks.

The reed pipes of the organ--those pipes that imitate brass or woodwind and are of complicated design--are out and in Hartford being completely restored. After 90 years of service, this is to be expected. I still have the digital reeds, so there will be some "crunch" to the organ sound yet.

Everything is unpredictable still, so I am not sure when they will return or the console go out for replacement. But it's happening! Thanks to the Session and to George Hankins for helping move this process along.

My heart went out to Queen Elizabeth II over the weekend as she mourned her husband of nearly three-quarters of a century. I was also moved by the music. All of it was excellent, well chosen and beautifully performed. Sacred music accompanies us throughout our lives, even to the grave. It means so much more than we sometimes remember, doesn't it?

In mid-April, my mind also turns to the Battles of Lexington and Concord--the "shot heard round the world." This country was born in resistance to tyranny, and that still runs through our character today. Something to be proud of, and grateful for.

We hope to do another outdoor concert sometime soon, like we did last fall. I think the community will appreciate it! Other musical ideas are in the works as well.

Looking forward to sharing the days ahead.

Jonathan

As we emerge from Lent, from our quarantine cocoons, and from our winter hibernations, now is the time to begin the work of rebuilding the relationships, the communities, and the social bonds that have atrophied in our community and congregation over the past difficult year. In short, it's time to **SPRING INTO ACTION!** Stay tuned for more details, but here are some activities that are coming up:

### **PUTTING GOD'S LOVE INTO ACTION**

What's up at #10 PresbyBuild? **Join us at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>** at 187 North Miller Street in Newburgh to find out what's been happening at Habitat for Humanity this past year. Walk through PresbyBuild's tenth sponsored house, roughly 50% completed, and join in on a conversation about the future of Habitat with the Director of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh and the Co-Chairs of PresbyBuild. All except the walk-through will take place outdoors. Wear your masks. Rain date is May 15. Sponsored by the Mission Committee of FPC Goshen. More information: contact Sue Varden at 845-649-7830 or [svarden@hvc.rr.com](mailto:svarden@hvc.rr.com)

### **DISCUSSION GROUP: DIALOGUES ON RACE**

Designed to engage adults in difficult conversations, *Dialogues on Race* explores key topics having to do with race and religion in the United States. Inside, well-researched information is brought to life with the lived experience of people at the center of each topic. Discussions will take place on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom (link forthcoming). POC: Pastor Rhonda Myers – [revrhon@aol.com](mailto:revrhon@aol.com)

- May 10: What Does it Mean to be White? – Daniel Hill
- May 17: Christmas Cookies from Cambodia – Kristofer Coffman
- May 24: Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud – Rozella Haydée White
- June 7: American Amnesia – Jim Bear Jacobs
- June 14: Whither the Women? – Cami Jones
- June 21: Two Christianities – Broderick Greer
- June 28: A New Heaven and a New Earth – Lenny Duncan

## **TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER**

### **HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS TO:**

2	<i>Carol Gabella</i>	15	<i>Evelyn Kromm</i>
3	<i>Barbara Munhall</i>		<i>Barbara von Pentz</i>
5	<i>Mike Coyne</i>	17	<i>Morgan Serkes</i>
	<i>Kelsey Ellis</i>	19	<i>Mary Kate Dickover</i>
	<i>Haley Wilton</i>	20	<i>Bill Gruber</i>
6	<i>Matthew Csernai</i>	21	<i>Analiese Boardman</i>
9	<i>Scott Dickover</i>	26	<i>George Hankins</i>
	<i>Jack Meek</i>	28	<i>Jennifer Ellis</i>
	<i>Erica Walsh</i>		<i>Susan Sitler</i>
12	<i>George Schust</i>		
	<i>Charlie von Pentz</i>		

### **HAPPY MAY ANNIVERSARIES TO:**

3	<i>Chuck and Lori Kilmer</i>
19	<i>Mark and Paty Glasse</i>
22	<i>Ron and Kathy Alevras</i>
27	<i>Donald and Ashley Dinsmore</i>
28	<i>Ginny and Ed Gallet</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.***

### **PLEASE PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2021**

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 **270** and **our assessment per member** (not per family) **for 2021 is \$38.83**, which is a total of **\$10,484.10** 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, 2021. Thanks for doing your share.



## **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  
Robert Clooney  
Peter Coyne  
Everyone serving in the Military  
Judy Fazio  
Barbara and George Hankins  
Rosemary Joy  
Jeff Kott and Natalia  
Patricia Lawlor  
Kelly Magee Thrush  
Richard Montalbano  
Amy (Thompson) Nguye  
Josephine Pecoraro  
Karen Saleski  
Mary Rita Schlagel  
Louise Spencer  
Christopher Tucker  
Kenneth Van Etten  
Jo Wolfe

Susan Ambrsino  
Richard Brahs  
Barbara Cody  
Jean and Bruce Crandall  
James, Max, and Liam Feragola  
Charles Fritz  
Kevin and Sara Hankins  
Regina Kenny  
Brenda Kujawski  
Maggie and Quinn  
Evelyn Mercado  
Kevin Murphy  
Owen  
Carlos and Miarose Reyes  
Tom Sawyer  
Eva Sickler  
Barbara Hankins' sister, Virginia Stubenrauch  
Lori Kilmer's mom, Learle VanEmburg  
Sam Wallis  
Orra Wood

Janet Begnoche  
Scott Brinkley  
Lynn Costa and Son  
Dori Dodson  
Mary Lee Farris and her sister  
Carol Gabella's nephew, Frank  
Susan Johnson  
Mary Kopec's cousin, Cathy  
Maria Kurt  
James Magee  
Dolores Mollicone  
Eileen Myslinski  
Dave and Wendy Paffenroth  
Carolyn Reynolds  
Matt Skyer  
Gary Smith  
Jerry Westphal  
Linda Clark's nephew, Sean Zwart

***(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**

### **MAY UPDATE**

Hey! It's May! The Meditation Garden begins its blooming!  
Enjoy the peace and tranquility our garden can bring...  
It's there for everyone!

#### **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 only have one order).

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#### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> columbarium wall soon.  
The estimated cost for these two new walls is \$40,000+.***

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#### **"Stewards of Our Garden"**

*Special thanks to our dedicated Stewards for keeping the garden neat!*

##### **The MAY/early JUNE Steward's Schedule:**

Bill Eustance	May 1 – May 15
Barbara and George Hankins	May 16 – May 31
Bill Eustance	June 1 – June 15

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### **CALLING ANY & ALL VOLUNTEERS!**

***"Helping Hands" are always needed and certainly welcomed. Just reach out to Pat in the church office to sign-up and be added to our Stewards schedule.***

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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 2021**

**Mark Glassé  
George Hankins  
Bill Hodges  
Lori Kilmer  
Ken Phelan  
Scott Roper**

### **Class of 2022**

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

### **Class of 2023**

**Nancy Buckley  
Jennifer Ellis  
Kevan Ottochian  
Sue Varden**

**Clerk of Session: Sue Varden**

## **BOARD OF DEACONS**

### **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**

### **Class of 2023**

**Diana Bowe  
Jane Geyer  
Gina Gruber  
Carolyn Keller  
Mary Kopec  
Jonathan Laskoski  
Cheryl Zis**

**Moderator of Deacons: Carolyn Keller**

## **STAFF**

**Jonathan B. Hall, Minister of Music  
Patricia Schwetje, Church Secretary  
Deborah Hourahan, Church Treasurer  
William Kozireski, Church Sexton  
Mitch Weintraub, Church Sexton**

# THE KID'S PAGE

## Play "God's Creation" Game

The goal of the game is to find things all around you that God has created. You can play alone, with friends or in teams.

You will need:

- ✿ Friends or family members
- ✿ God's creations

How to play:

✿ Go outdoors – to a park, in your back yard or on a hike.

✿ The first person says the name of something he sees or thinks of that begins with the letter A, such as an ant or an apple. The next person says something he sees beginning with the letter B. Continue in order through the entire alphabet.

A variation:

Each player says the name of each thing that has been found so far, and then adds a new one to the list.



In the spring we see God's creation coming alive again!  
Fill in the blanks below with the names of things that God created. Use the Scripture references to help if needed.

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <u>G</u> _ _ _ _ _  | where vegetables grow<br>(Deuteronomy 11:10)             |
| <u>O</u> _ _ _      | a tree to rest under (1 Kings 13:14)                     |
| <u>D</u> _ _ _      | when Mary went to the tomb<br>(Matthew 28:1)             |
| <u>'S</u> _ _ _ _ _ | lights in the night sky (Genesis 1:16)                   |
| <u>C</u> _ _ _ _ _  | provided clothing for John the Baptist<br>(Matthew 3:4)  |
| <u>R</u> _ _ _ _ _  | flowing water (Matthew 3:6)                              |
| <u>E</u> _ _ _ _    | name of a garden (Genesis 2:8)                           |
| <u>A</u> _ _ _ _    | the first man (Genesis 2:20b)                            |
| <u>T</u> _ _ _ _ _  | sound made by lightning (Exodus 19:16)                   |
| <u>I</u> _ _ _ _ _  | hopping, flying, crawling creatures<br>(Leviticus 11:20) |
| <u>O</u> _ _ _      | a "wise" bird (Psalm 102:6)                              |
| <u>N</u> _ _ _ _ _  | begins at sunset (Genesis 28:11)                         |

Answers: garden; oak; dawn; stars; camel; river; Eden; Adam; thunder; insects; owl; night.