

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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“Faith Matters: Being Presbyterian 101”

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.” (1 Cor. 12:12)

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

My dear friends,

We recently celebrated with joy the news of our risen Lord on Easter Sunday and, soon (June 5th), we will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the early believers on the day of Pentecost, giving birth to the church. In its earliest days, the Apostle Paul described the church using this visual: we are the *body of Christ*. And just as a human body has many different parts—limbs and organs and bones and ligaments—the body of Christ alive in the world has many parts, too. When those parts come together through the mutual waters of baptism, the Holy Spirit binds us into one body united in faith, hope, and love. And while each individual member of the body retains their own personal characteristics and identity, when joined with the unique qualities and gifts of other baptized members, the body is equipped to accomplish the ministry of Jesus Christ in the world.

A modern look at the verse from Acts 2 above would suggest that a vital, healthy church is one that is committed to accomplishing its ministry through: learning, sharing in community, connecting with the lives of other believers, and growing in spiritual depth. What's more, the Lord's Great Commission, to “Go therefore and make disciples....” (Matt. 28:19a), instructs us to be outwardly focused as much as we are inwardly connected.

The church is both a place of sanctuary where the Spirit offers comfort and guidance through life's travails as well as a gateway to the community, providing the hands, feet, heart, and mouth of Christ for those people and places in need. We are “sent out” (the very definition of *apostle*) to joyfully serve the Lord by sharing the gospel and tackling the major issues facing the world today. If you attended the Peace Service for Ukraine this spring, you might have seen how this commitment to discipleship and justice come together to model a missional love which works to change circumstances to better reflect God's intention for humankind.

For Presbyterians, the core of our identity lies in our secure hope in the grace of God, whose Spirit empowers us to live lives of gratitude for the gift of a redeeming Lord who chooses to love us unto death. And it is with gratitude that we exhibit our faith through acts of generosity and hospitality, the pursuit of social justice, and the proclamation of the gospel. And while every congregation must

choose how to live missionally as the body of Christ, we do so trusting that the Holy Spirit guides our way.

As part of its work, the Transition Team has sought to explore what it means to be Presbyterian. And the Session has asked that I offer the congregation an opportunity to learn more about the faith we share. So, I will be offering a “Being Presbyterian 101” workshop on 3 successive Mondays in June: 6/6, 6/13, and 6/20. We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 7pm to look at the basics of our Beliefs and Doctrines, our History and Polity, and the meaning of Membership. Everyone interested in learning more about the church is invited to participate; in fact, the more the merrier. But please note that the 3rd session will intentionally be developed for those seeking to join the church. If you are already a member, join me for one or more sessions. If you would like to become a member, please join me for all 3 sessions.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to serve as your Transition Leader.

With the peace of Christ,
Pastor Rhonda Myers

FYI...

“Being Presbyterian 101” Workshop—June 6th, 13th, and 20th

If you are interested in learning more about the Presbyterian church, please join the Pastor at 7pm in Fellowship Hall on 3 Mondays in June for a look at the basics of our Beliefs and Doctrines, our History and Polity, and the meaning of Membership. The 3rd session will be specifically geared for those seeking membership in the church, but all 3 sessions will be helpful to anyone looking to know more about the church. If possible, let Pastor Rhonda know to expect you so she can have sufficient materials on hand. And if you are looking to become a member, let her know so she can connect with you beforehand: revrhon@aol.com

Communion Sunday—May 1st

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 May 1st.

Fellowship Hour has returned. Please be in touch with Brad McLeland at bradwm@frontiernet.net if you would like to help by hosting on an upcoming Sunday. Many hands make for light work!

The Transition Team has been meeting with our Presbytery-sponsored Coach twice a month. Using tools such as intentional listening, growing a partnership, building trust, and being open to an organic process of conversation for the sake of discerning God’s will for the church, we are striving to engage the CAT report in meaningful ways to gain unique insight regarding our history as a congregation and how that history and the systems it has forged has led to our current identity and function. If we are to be successful in making a commitment to new days and new directions in ministry, we must better understand who we are, how we function, and what it means for us to be partners in ministry—with one another, with our new Pastor, and with the Larger Church and Community with which we work. We are thankful for those of you who have agreed to participate in our “Coffee Hour Table Conversations,” as your participation is vital to our success. If you have not yet begun to add your “voice” to this Transition process, please consider doing so. Keep the Team in your prayers!

Worship with J.O.Y.—Earth Care Service—May 15th—Pot Luck Supper—Starts @ 5pm

Earth Day may have been celebrated in April but, for Christians, Earth Day is Every Day. So, our Special J.O.Y. Services (Justice, Outreach, and You) will continue on the 3rd Sunday evening of the month in May as we reflect on the call of God to Care for Creation. As the Office of the General Assembly reminds us, “Our faith urges us to strive for eco-justice: defending and healing creation while working to assure justice for all of creation and the human beings who live in it. This call is rooted in the human vocation of ‘tilling and keeping’ the garden from Genesis 2:15.” We hope to enjoy each other’s company while also lifting up themes of Creation Care in a worship designed to be both family-friendly and JOYful. Plan to join us. And bring a dish to share!



Illustration by Amy Shamblen via Unsplash

Office Closed—May 30th

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 30th in honor of our national Memorial Day holiday. Let us remember the women and men who have died while serving in the U.S. military and give thanks to God for the gift of a Free Democracy.

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.



Music Notes...

Kids—always ask your parents before downloading a game!

Did I ever mention that I have a favorite computer game? I do! I have been playing *Plants versus Zombies* since it came out in 2009. I still play the original game, but mostly now I play *PvZ 2*, which came out in 2014 and has been adding features ever since.

The game has a simple premise. The middle of the screen is your front lawn, divided into a field of 9 x 5 squares. On the left is your house; on the right are zombies trying to cross your yard. If they get into your house, you lose (your brains)! Despite that, the game is quite tame. The zombies are goofy. There is no gore.

Your job is to plant a magic garden to ward off the undead. The plants have many functions. The Sunflower produces sun, which you need to buy more plants. Then there are Peashooters (which shoot peas at the zombies), Split Peas (which shoot forward and back), Frozen Peas (which shoot frozen peas, of course), and others. There is a Squash which, you guessed it, *squashes* them. There is a Potato Mine which blows them up. There is a Cherry Bomb which does the same thing, but with different sound effects (it says “Cha-BOOF!” instead of “Spu-DOW!”).

For all their supposed menace, the zombies are amusing. Some wear road cones, others sport metal buckets on their heads, some carry parasols, and quite a few wear a shirt and tie. There are imps, chickens, weasels, pirate zombies with parrots, teenage zombies on surfboards, disco zombies with boom boxes, futuristic zombies with jet packs...*ad infinitum*.

There’s even a Caesar zombie who throws bottles of *salad dressing*, which turns your plants into...yes...*salad*.

Silly as it is, *Plants versus Zombies* hones important skills. It calls for time and resource management, strategy, careful choices, memory, and reflexes. It’s surprisingly easy to learn despite the many dozens of characters, and the seemingly endless array of levels and worlds.

But for me, the best part of *Plants versus Zombies* is its moral aspect. It is a cheerfully black-and-white moral universe. *Zombies bad, plants good*. There is never a question as to whose side you’re on, and where goodness lies. In their brain-dead stubbornness, the zombies show the absurdity of evil. In their cheerfulness and resourcefulness, the plants show the joy of goodness. One does not “journey” with a zombie!

It’s nice to play a game that reaffirms the beauty of nature, the power of innocence, and the joy of a cooperative spirit against monotonous gray waves of adversity. It’s nice to laugh at the same time!

--Jonathan

News From Our Committees...

Christian Education

As the COVID19 pandemic has waned, the return to Sunday School has brought great joy to us all. We will fill you in on our end-of-the-school year programming in the next *Tower Tie* but, for now, please put these events on your calendar:

May 13th
July 19th-21st

Friday Night Friends
Evening Mini-VBS

Theme: Friday the 13th
Theme: G-Force

Keep an eye out also for Pastor Rhonda's next Zoom book study using Adam Hamilton's *The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul*. Those who participated in the last two Zoom book studies, Hamilton's *Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem* and Amy-Jill Levine's *Witness at the Cross* thoroughly enjoyed the conversation these books and DVDs generated. We'd love to expand the study group. Think about joining us.

Mission

The Mission Committee would like to thank you for the great support you have shown for the church's mission initiatives this spring. Due to your generosity, the Blanket Fund collected over a thousand dollars which will be used to support the purchase of blankets by Church World Service to be distributed to victims of violence, warfare, natural disaster and more throughout the world. In addition, you gave just under a thousand dollars (\$990 to be exact!) to sponsor several walkers from our church in the Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh Walk in April. Generous gifts like these will continue to help revitalize Newburgh's most blighted neighborhoods.

FPC Goshen will be hosting a Habitat for Humanity Talent Show on the evening of May 21st beginning at 7:00 p.m. Funds will be used to construct a Unity Build sponsored home for a Habitat family. PresbyBuild, EspiscoBuild, and Methodist & Friends are partnering in the planning and staging of the event. No tickets required. A free-will offering will be taken during the show.

Nominating Committee

On Sunday, April 24th, the Congregation voted to reduce the size of our Session and Board of Deacons from their current number (18 and 21 respectively) to 12 each. This was done to better represent the size of the congregation in the current day. This means that the number of Elders and Deacons to be nominated at our June Congregational Meeting will be fewer than in recent years, but the Nominating Committee is still on the search for the right individuals to serve as officers of the church. If you are approached by a member of the Committee and asked to serve, this is because they have prayerfully discerned you to be a strong candidate for the office. So, please carefully consider your reply.

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>
4	<i>Kelly Magee Thrush</i>	17	<i>Morgan Serkes</i>
5	<i>Michael Coyne</i>	19	<i>Mary Kate Dickover</i>
	<i>Kelsey Ellis</i>	20	<i>Bill Gruber</i>
	<i>Haley Wilton</i>	21	<i>Analiese Boardman</i>
6	<i>Matthew Csernai</i>	26	<i>George Hankins</i>
9	<i>Scott Dickover</i>	28	<i>Jennifer Ellis</i>
	<i>Jack Meek</i>		<i>Susan Sitler</i>
	<i>Erica Walsh</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.*

Mary's Soliloquy

We have been asked about the story Pastor Rhonda read about Jesus' mother Mary during Holy Week Services. This story was written by the United Methodist church pastor, artist, and poet about what Mary's thoughts might have been in the hours and days immediately after Jesus' death. Remember: this is a reflection of what her thoughts may have been in the *pre-Easter darkness of death and sorrow*.

Listen, it's suddenly become so quiet . . . so deathly quiet. Everyone must finally be asleep, everyone except me. John keeps telling me that I should get some rest, but how can I rest? Every time I even try to close my eyes, I can still see Him there. It's so cold . . . and dark. Has it ever been so dark?

Oh, God, where are You? Never in my life have You seemed so distant as You seem tonight. Not even when my beloved Joseph died, did I feel this alone. What happened? It wasn't supposed to be this way. You said He was to be the Messiah. That one day He would sit upon the throne of David. Instead, I watched them place my son in a tomb. Why? How could You let this happen?

There was nothing that I could do . . . but watch. There was nothing that any of us could have done. But You, Lord, You could have stopped them, and yet You did nothing.

At first, when He came into Jerusalem, and the people shouted His praises and laid palm branches before Him, I thought, at last . . . At last I would see Your promises for my son fulfilled. But something went wrong . . . terribly wrong. Did He say or do something that displeased You so much that You would allow them to do this to Him? Could it be that Joseph and I were both so wrong? Did we somehow deceive ourselves and in doing so, deceive Him?

Oh, God, is it my fault . . . am I somehow to blame for my own son's death? Yet, I remember so clearly the night Your angel came to me . . . all the things He said. Then there were the shepherds . . . and the wise men from the East. Would they have traveled so far . . . would they have brought such gifts, if He were to be just an ordinary child?

And then there was Anna . . . and Simeon. There were so many things that spoke to my heart, Reassuring me that it was so much more than a dream. But if not a dream, then what . . . a lie? But God does not lie. No! I will not believe it. He was the Messiah, just as You promised . . . wasn't He?

Joseph said that the angel told him that His name should be Jesus, because He would save His people from their sins. But He didn't. He didn't even try to save Himself. It was almost as though He willed it to happen, just as it did. I don't understand, but then I never understood what made Him do a lot of the things that He did.

He was so kind . . . so full of compassion . . . so wise for one so young. And yet, there were times when He almost seemed to go out of His way to provoke the anger of our leaders. He was my son, and I loved Him, but I don't know that I ever truly understood Him. There were a few times when I began to wonder if maybe His brothers were right, that maybe He had gone mad . . . but, in my heart, I knew.

Oh, why wouldn't He just come home when I asked Him?

I should have found a way to make Him come home, then none of this would have happened. But He would not be swayed, not by me, not by anyone. He was determined to fulfill what He was sure was Your purpose for His life. But, if He was truly the Messiah, then how could You have allowed Him to die before His work was finished?

God, I don't understand any of this and I need so desperately to understand. If only He were here . . . I need His strength. But, I will never know His strength again, will I? Nor His peace? I will never hear His voice again . . . or feel the touch of His hand on mine. I will never see His face . . .

Oh, God, when I close my eyes, I can still see the agony on His face. I can still hear Him crying out. God, help me! Why did this have to happen? Why did You let them do this to my son? Why?

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:

Colin Alevras
Carol Gabella's brother, Clancy
The Family of Steve Coon
Randy Faurot
The Family of Jason Gardellis
Mary Gray Griffith
The Family of Carolyn Hall (Jonathan's mother)
The Family of Shawn Miller
The Family of Barbara Nunn
Dave Paffenroth
Frank Piscitelli
The Family of Roger Tuthill

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden



MAY UPDATE

**New life continues to bloom in your garden!
Enjoy the many gifts our Lord has given us in this time 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). See Pat in the office to order yours.

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 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

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 puppets

and put on a show with your friends.

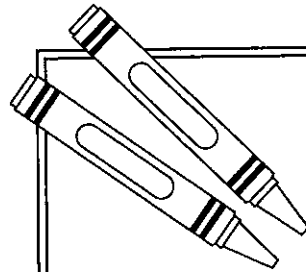
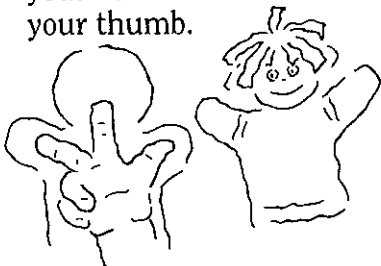
You will need:

- a handkerchief or piece of fabric about that size
- styrofoam ball
- rubber band
- glue
- scissors
- scraps of felt, paper, trim, yarn
- buttons



How to make it:

- Make a hole in the ball big enough to put your pointer finger into.
- The ball is the puppet's head. Add a face and hair. Make sure the finger hole is at the bottom.
- Drape the handkerchief over your hand.
- Put your pointer finger into the head.
- Stretch the rubber band over your middle finger, then around the back of your hand and around your thumb.



Just for **KIDS**

"A Special Fitness Plan"

Read the words in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. It talks about being in shape to "run the race" – to be a Christian. Below is a fitness plan to help.

Match the words from the list below into the shaped boxes to complete the sentences.

① your .

② about God's .

③ every .



④ Pray .

⑤ at day.

⑥ to God in you do.

Do	someone	each	Try	Bible	words
for	everything	one	Read	Think	others
day	please	thing	Pray	least	loving

Answer: 1. Read your Bible. 2. Think about God's words. 3. Pray every day. 4. Pray for others. 5. Do at least one loving thing for someone each day. 6. Try to please God in everything you do.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
First Day of Asian Pacific 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service 10:30am - Deacon's	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry 7pm - Worship/Music 7:30pm - Transition Team	4:30pm - Mission 6:30pm - NA @ B	Cinco de Mayo 10am - GAPNS @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - Transition	9am - GAPNS @ FH 12:30pm - NA @ FH	5pm - Spaghetti Dinner @
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Mother's Day 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Outreach	7:30pm - Finance	2pm - Talent Show Staging 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	12:30pm - NA @ FH 6pm - Friday Night Friends	9am - Food Pantry @
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Tower Tie Articles Due 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service 2pm - Talent Show Practice 5pm - Potluck/Special	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry 7:30pm - Transition Team	7pm - Session @ Zoom	6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	12:30pm - NA @ FH	7pm - Talent Show @ S, FH
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service 12:30pm - ClubZ! @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry		6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9am - Food Pantry
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service	Memorial Day 12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry	First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride 4:30pm - Mission 6:30pm - NA @ B	6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	12:30pm - NA @ FH	