

# 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](mailto:fpgoshen@gmail.com)  
Web Page: [www.fpgoshen.org](http://www.fpgoshen.org)

Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe5wix1p3S2GVT6fXEnNwg>

May 2023

## Faith Matters

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." (*Philippians 1:6*)

Dear Goshen Presbyterian Church Family and Friends,

As you have learned, the Session concurred with my request not to renew my Interim Pastor covenant. My last Sunday sharing in worship with you will be May 28<sup>th</sup>. In case you are not part of our Google contact list, let me share with you the contents of the electronic letter I distributed. I am sure you know, this was not an easy decision to make.

I am grateful for your support and prayers, especially during these past 8 weeks of recovery from a broken leg. I will miss being a part of your worship and ministry and I will miss working with my faithful colleagues. I will also miss being a part of your lives. I so appreciate your welcoming me into the church two years ago and your dedication to walking with me during this time of congregational change.

The decision to move comes out of a season of prayerful discernment about next steps for Dave and me. But I will continue to pray for both the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and the Church as you move forward in calling a new Pastor. I have accepted a position as Interim Pastor to the First Presbyterian Church in Verona NJ and I do hope you will pray for me during this transition of service, as well.

I know that this news may come as something of a surprise to you, but temporary pastorates are intended to be precisely that—temporary. Your PNC is meeting weekly under the watchful supervision of John Miller, pastor of the Rye Presbyterian Church and member of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, and I have no fear that their due diligence will lead to the establishment of a new pastoral relationship before too long.

The Session and the Worship & Music Committee will seek to provide the congregation with effective worship leaders until new pastoral leadership is found. And I invite you to be in prayer for the elders as they work to make this time of transition as minimally disruptive as possible.

Between now and May 28<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate some special occasions together: Earth Day, a service in honor of the National Day of Prayer, Mother's Day, Confirmation, and Pentecost. There is much

celebrating to be done over the next six weeks, and I hope you will take advantage of our remaining time together.

I have every confidence in your future, and I will surely be cheering you on as you move toward a new pastoral relationship in the not-too-distant future!

I am so thankful for the honor of having served as your Interim Pastor and I look forward to seeing what God will be doing with you and through you as a community of faithful disciples in the months and years ahead. God bless you!

Keep up the good work,

Pastor Rhonda

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Great American Weekend Brainstorming Session**

There will be a brainstorming session on Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm in the Parlor to generate ideas on how to best utilize the Great American Weekend event in fundraising for the church. We will have rides again this year and there will be an antiques table. But we would like to expand our participation in GAW. If you would be willing to help us in this endeavor, please join us on May 15<sup>th</sup>. For more information, be in touch with Mal Stewart @ 845-294-7243 or [malsue@live.com](mailto:malsue@live.com)

### **Thank you for your Generous Mission Support**

On behalf of the Mission Committee and the Deacons, we would like to support you for your generous participation in some of our recent mission offerings. The Church World Service Blanket Fund drive raised \$1733. Your gifts will be used to provide comfort, shelter, and warmth to displaced people around the world. What a gift!

In addition, \$1080 has been raised so far for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering sponsored by the Presbyterian Mission Agency of the PC (USA). These funds are used to restore hope, feed the hungry, and empower the oppressed through our denominational agencies: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. These three programs work together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Thank you for your generosity!

### **A Month long Celebration**

We have a great month to look forward to as a joyous congregation:

- On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will celebrate **Earth Day** during our morning worship. We will worship the Creator with Word and Music and covenant anew to be good stewards of the planet entrusted to our care.
- On May 7<sup>th</sup>, we will lift up the Lord with prayerful voices as we support the **National Day of Prayer**.
- On May 14<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate our mothers during worship and be invited to join the men of the church in the Fellowship Hall for a lovely **Mother's Day** brunch.
- On May 21<sup>st</sup>, we will participate in the **Confirmation** of Sam Fontana, Caleb McCarty, and Charles Quick to membership in the church. Mark and Paty Glasse and Pastor Rhonda have enjoyed working with these young men since last fall, exploring our faith and giving voice to

our beliefs in a gracious and loving God. It will be a wonderful occasion for a celebration of these young men who have already shown leadership abilities.

- On May 28<sup>th</sup>, we will join together in lifting our hands and voices to praise the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the church at **Pentecost. Please Wear Red.**  
See you at Church!!

\*\*\*\*\*



I write this on the Sunday after Easter. This morning, the choir (like the congregation!) was somewhat smaller than on Easter. Yet, with five singers, the anthem was an undoubted triumph. Several members of the congregation echoed my own thought: that the five sounded like fifteen. This has to do with technique. Singing correctly isn't all that hard to learn, and it yields wonderful—even at times magical—results.

So, bravos to the Mighty Five who sang the “Easter Carol” today.

However, my heart is also still full with gratitude and pride for the work of the choir and handbells during Palm Sunday and Easter. Their rehearsals were fun and inspiring, and their performances were stellar. Thank you and bravo, to each and every one of you.

I also appreciate the many expressions of appreciation voiced for the organ. Think about it: the last time we really had a Palm Sunday and Easter with the organ was 2019. We have missed it, and rightly so!

I want to say something about the words we use to describe music and musical styles. Often we hear a lament for music that is “lively,” or “upbeat,” or “uplifting,” or “energetic.” Usually, these are code words for “contemporary, guitar-and-drum-based, loud, fast, popular styles of music.” The two things—energy and style—are totally different, of course. I play with energy!

Unfortunately, the “worship wars” are still with us, with a stubborn group still trying to score points for the 1960s, a smaller group looking to a specific period before that, and a third group—the one I am in—looking for continuity and balance.

I grew up in Manhattan in the Sixties, and my parents were strongly formed and came of age in the 1940s and 1950s. While I found the silliness and absurdity of the decade fun—think Soupy Sales (which I watched without grasping any of it), think the goofy *Batman* series—I also thrilled to the great mission of going to the moon. I remember vividly as the Apollo 11 astronauts touched down in the Sea of Tranquility and Neil Armstrong backed down the ladder. I also remember sit-ins and protests—my mother shepherding me firmly away from trouble more than once. I grew up a devoted childhood fan of Calvin Hampton, the “pied piper” young organist at Calvary Episcopal Church, which my dad attended. Many of us called it “Saint Calvin’s Church” in our innocence.

I think I can see the two “sides” as clearly as anybody else.

If Jesus rose in the flesh, how dignified is the human body? And we make music with the body.

Let’s start there.

Happy Easter,

Jonathan

# 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.*

**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 Fellowship Hall on the third Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. (April's Session meeting will be held on zoom)

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.

### **Office Closed—May 30<sup>th</sup>**

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Please join us for a Mother's Day Brunch!



When: Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup> after 9:30 service

Where: First Presbyterian Church in Goshen Fellowship Hall

**All are welcome (including your mother-in-law!)**

Let us know how many are coming (adults and children) and any special dietary needs (gluten, vegetarian, vegan) so we can plan for enough food

Any monetary donations to cover cost is appreciated please label for Mother's Day Brunch

Questions can be directed to Mark Glasse' [mpglasse@optonline.net](mailto:mpglasse@optonline.net), 845-325-4439 (cell)

**Deadline for reservations is May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Mothers are not allowed to help! They must sit and be waited on!

---

Name	
Number Attending (adults & Children)	
Special Dietary Needs	

## **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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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](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:***

*Andrew DeBlock (Linda Clark's nephew)*

*Pastor Rhonda Myers*

*Rich Furst*

*Joan (a friend of Jody and Mary Kopeck)*

*Peggy Huestis O'Connor (a friend of Cecile Ayres)*

*Jennifer Ellis and Family*

*Tom Sawyer*

*Linda Powell (a friend of Cecile Ayres)*

*Father Gus*

*Philip Formica (a friend of Carolyn Keller)*

## **News from the Fellowship Committee....**

The men of the church, led by Mark Glassé, will be hosting a Mother's Day Brunch after the worship service on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. (The women will do the decorations). Bring your Moms and your appetites! See the reservation form in this issue of the *Tower Tie*. Deadline for reservations is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Elders will be hosting the May 21<sup>st</sup> coffee hour and on May 28<sup>th</sup> it will be the Congregational coffee hour. **The last Sunday of each month we are asking the congregation to host coffee hour. Please bring something to share on that Sunday.**

We are looking into a group outing to the Rockland Boulders baseball game with tailgating and all! Details will follow in the Weekly *Tower Tie*.

We are also checking into the Forestburgh Theatre's matinees of the productions of "Matilda," "The Adams Family," and "The Jersey Boys" for another family outing.

Any suggestions for other activities are gratefully received.

Thanks for the enthusiasm you have all shown for the coffee hours and activities. So far it has been a FUN spring!

## **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](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.**

## Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden



### **MAY UPDATE**

**Spring has sprung! Enjoy a slice of your day at the Meditation Garden.**

#### **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 work hard to keep our garden beautiful!*

#### **The APRIL/EARLY MAY Steward's Schedule:**

Barbara & George Hankins	May 1 – May 15
Bill Eustance	May 16 – May 31
Nancy Buckley	June 1 – June 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

## Plant a Tree!



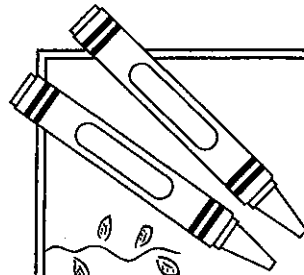
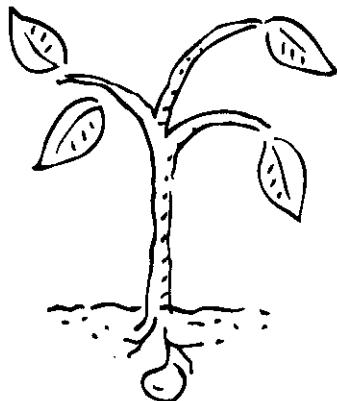
### You will need:

- ♫ seeds from a grapefruit, orange, lemon or tangerine
- ♫ a flower pot
- ♫ soil

### How to:

Soak the seeds in water overnight.  
Fill the flower pot with soil.  
Plant 3 or 4 seeds about half an inch deep.  
Keep soil moist. Water once or twice a week.  
Keep pot in a warm, bright place.

*The seedlings will sprout in about 8 weeks.  
Leave only the strongest plant in the pot. It will grow into a little tree with dark, shiny leaves.*



Just for

# KIDS

## "A Time to Plant..."

The spring of the year is time to plant gardens or tend to other plants. The list below contains the names of plants that grew in Bible times. How many do you recognize? Circle the names from the list. They may be found → ← ↓ ↑ ↘ . There will be 13 letters uncircled. Write them in the spaces below.

myrrh	aloes	cassia	mint	dill
lentil	apple trees	crocus	barley	cucumbers
balsam trees	melons	leeks	onions	garlic
oak trees	wheat	figs	mustard	grain
pomegranates	olive trees	beans	millet	cane
almonds	cinnamon	pistachio nuts	rose of Sharon	
lily of the valley				

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

Who is the "Master Gardener"?

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>30</div> <div>9:30am - Church School</div> <div>9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 1pm - Club Z @ FH</div>	<div>1</div> <div>First Day of Asian Pacific</div> <div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div>	<div>2</div> <div>9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B</div> <div>4:30pm - Mission Committee 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:10pm - Worship and Music</div>	<div>3</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - NA @ FH</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Cinco de Mayo</div> <div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div>
<div>7</div> <div>9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH</div>	<div>8</div> <div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div>	<div>9</div> <div>9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B</div> <div>7:30pm - Finance Committee</div>	<div>10</div> <div>7pm - Session @ FH</div>	<div>11</div> <div>10am - GAPNS Tea @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</div>	<div>12</div> <div>10am - GAPNS Tea @ FH 12:30pm - NA @ B 6pm - Friday Night Friends @</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Sat-up for Brunch</div> <div>9am - Food Pantry @ Parking</div>
<div>14</div> <div>Mother's Day</div> <div>9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Deacon's Mtg. @ 10:30am - Mother's Day</div>	<div>15</div> <div>12:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - GAW Mtg. @ P</div>	<div>16</div> <div>9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B</div>	<div>17</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</div>	<div>18</div> <div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div>	<div>19</div> <div>8am - Men's Breakfast @ FH</div>	<div>20</div>
<div>21</div> <div>Tower Tie Articles Due</div> <div>9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH</div>	<div>22</div> <div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div>	<div>23</div> <div>9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B</div>	<div>24</div> <div>6pm - Food Pantry @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</div>	<div>25</div> <div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div>	<div>26</div> <div>1pm - Diva Dance @ FH</div>	<div>27</div>
<div>28</div> <div>No Church School</div> <div>9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Memorial Day</div> <div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div>	<div>30</div> <div>9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B</div>	<div>31</div> <div>First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride</div> <div>5pm - Fellowship Committee 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - NA @ FH</div>	<div>1</div> <div>12:30pm - NA @ B</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>