

# THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the  
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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November 2022

## “Faith Matters: The Strength to Commit”

*“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*  
(Philippians 4:13)

Dear Church Friends and Family,

As I write this, my husband and two of my sons are preparing their designs for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Myers Men Pumpkin Carving Contest. What started out as a simple project when my eldest grandson was 4, and we thought it would be fun for him to create his first jack-o-lantern, has turned into a competition to see who can design the greatest Halloween pumpkin of all. (Votes are tallied by Facebook posting.)

The women in the family get a kick out of watching the men carve away, trying so hard not to disclose their designs prior to the final reveal and muttering as they “tweak” their unwieldy delights. There is everything you might expect from game contestants: bravado, laughter, mumbling, and a marvelous exhibition of competitive spirit.

While this may sound like a funny intro to a pastor’s letter, I lift it up because this tradition has now become a part of our family life and we look forward to this fall event with joy. The planning starts over the summer and by Labor Day, the date has been chosen and put on our collective calendar, and nothing—not even a Progressive Dinner—can stand in the way of our little contest coming to fruition because all the “competitors” make a commitment to one another: to be present, to bring their talents and their best humor, and to share in some great fun and even a bit of bravado.

Of course, there are times in life when commitments have to change, and that may someday be the case for our Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest. But, in truth, a healthy family values its commitments and works to fulfill them, to the best of their ability. And that speaks to the men I love, and to the women who stand on the sidelines laughing, sharing stories, and participating through their own supportive jests and “suggestions.”

Healthy church families value their commitments, too. And, as Christians of the Presbyterian persuasion, there are certain commitments to which we hold fast lest they be neglected or, worse yet, forgotten. Some of the commitments we make upon becoming communicant members of the church that are vital to the unity and well-being of the body of Christ include the following; we commit to:

- Letting our leaders lead, and not just manage, our church affairs. This is vitally important during a time of transition when church identity, systems, and values are all being reviewed and—where necessary—updated for a new season of church life. Of course, we are best able to

join in God's mission in Goshen and around the world when we uphold the shared leadership of our Session and Deacons—who don't do ministry for the rest of us but lead us in doing the Lord's work. To accomplish this work of leadership, they need your support, encouragement, prayers, and a willingness to go along for the journey!

- Caring for the church community like a family. We make our promises to one another, put dates on a calendar, welcome leadership roles, plan events, participate in worship and education, take a hand in mission support, and show our care when others are struggling—all while loving, laughing, encouraging, and sharing with one another as we make and tell our stories of faith.
- Sharing our gifts of every stripe—*spiritual, financial, artistic, linguistic, educational, and more*. During this season of Thanksgiving, I urge you to especially consider your financial gifts to the church. Sometime over the coming year, you will call and install a new pastor. To make that relationship work, you will need to make provisions for salary support and housing. And you will need to be open to sharing your talents, your hope, and your unique self to this family of faith so that the work of the church continues on without a lapse in leadership. And we know what happens when sharing is done well: everyone knows we are Christians by our love.
- Respecting one another, even those with whom we may disagree, all the while working for unity in the body as we courageously march into the future with a decision to be transparent about our beliefs, open to mutual dialogue, speaking the truth in love, harboring no secrets, and holding no grudges.

There may be times when we think we know what's best and we speak with some bravado, hoping to come out on top and win the prize of most righteous disciple. But we all know that, in the end, all bluster aside, the unity we share as a family in Christ must always be the goal. There are no separate agendas, only God's will for the church divine.

I am so enjoying being your Interim Pastor and I hope you will re-commit to your church family this fall, trusting that Christ is always with us giving us courage and hope for tomorrow. Even when life throws challenges our way, may we trust and believe that the Lord's strength and love will carry us through.

And for those of you on Facebook, look for the pumpkins!

With love for this family of faith,

*Pastor Rhonda*

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### **Thanksgiving Devotions**

This year, we are going to try something a little different for Thanksgiving Devotions. Instead of using a Facebook page like last year, we are going to use our Constant Contact software to send out daily devotions during November. (This is the same software we use for our Weekly Tower Tie.) If you don't get our Weekly Tower Tie but would like to get the daily devotions for November, please contact the Pastor at [revrhon@aol.com](mailto:revrhon@aol.com) and she will see to it that you are added to the Contact List. If you already receive the Weekly Tower Tie, you don't need to do anything but open up the devotion each day and enjoy a scripture, a short message, a prayer, and a quote for the day. If you have someone in your home with whom to share the daily devotion, all the better!

One of the Observations our Transition Team made as a result of the CAT Report and the Team's subsequent work with you is that there is a yearning for more access to spiritual practices like regular devotions. We hope you'll enjoy our Thanksgiving Devotions this month. And if you think a friend would enjoy them too, please let the pastor know and she can get them added to the Contact List.

## Holidays



I'm looking forward to the holidays! I love the celebrations around Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and New Year's. They form a wonderful cycle, closing out one year and starting the next, and carrying us through the shortest days and longest nights.

This year, we expect to have our Christmas caroling event in church again. Look for an announcement. I also hope to have the Caroling Caravan back for another songful journey through the streets of Goshen.

New choir members are welcome. You might consider coming to a few rehearsals and taking part in Christmas, if a longer commitment isn't feasible.

Handbells will resume early in November to prepare for the holidays as well.

You may notice that the choir is singing a lot of new repertoire. One of my jobs is to curate the choir library. I felt this was a good time to acquire new titles. I am grateful to those among us who have contributed to these purchases.

Above all, I'm praying that the organ continues to settle in and serve us well in the coming months. This is "baby's first Christmas," after all, and papa is a little nervous!

Thanks to you all again for your unfailing and gracious support of the music ministries of this church. May you be blessed and rewarded abundantly.

Jonathan

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## ***Deacon's Holiday Fair***

**Saturday, November 19 – 9:00 – 3:00**



20 Vendors to select from - something for everyone; even bird houses for your feathered friends.

Our popular soup and chutney sale is back  
Yummy bake sale goodies will be available



**\*\*BAKERS AND SOUP MAKERS NEEDED\*\***

*(Soup jars and plates available – see Carolyn Keller at coffee hour or call 845-294-5508)*

Visit our fair as well as those of the St. James and Grace Episcopal Churches and have your holiday passport stamped to be eligible for a \$75.00 gift card. (One winner drawn at each church).



## ***FYI...***

- **The Santa Breakfast** will take place on Saturday, December 3 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. If you would like to help with set up, please join us in Fellowship Hall to decorate on Friday, December 2 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Pizza is included for volunteers). We will also need help on the morning of the event, December 3 from 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For any students or scouts that volunteer, we will sign off on hours for your club or organization. If you are available to assist or have any questions, please reach out to Robyn Boardman-Farley at 845-649-1029.
- **Please join us for the Jo Wolfe Dinner Club Outing at The Rustic Wheelhouse on Main Street in Chester.**  
Sunday, November 6 at 5:00 p.m. The dinner includes a choice of salmon, lasagna, or chicken franchise; salad; bread and butter; dessert; coffee or soda. The price is \$45.00 per person and includes the tax and gratuity. If you are interested in going, contact George Schust at 845-728-2246 or Linda Clark at 845-283-2122 to make your reservation.
- **The Church Office** will be closed on Monday, November 14 in observance of Veteran's Day.

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**Volunteers needed: Please help the Deacon's Fair be successful!**

**November 19**



**SOUP MAKERS & BAKERS**  
Soup jars and some plates available

7:00 -8:15 AM: Assist vendors to bring in their wares  
3:00 – 4:30 PM – Help vendors out to cars

**ASSIST AT PW BAKE SALE TABLE**



**PLEASE CONTACT EITHER CAROLYN KELLER OR LORI KILMER IF YOU CAN  
VOLUNTEER SOME TIME – THANK YOU!**



## **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

- ❖ Saturday – December 3, 2022
- ❖ The First Presbyterian Church in Goshen  
33 Park Place – Goshen NY 10924
- ❖ **Open Seating** from 9:00 – 11:00 AM
- ❖ Tickets-
  - \$10.00 per person;
  - Children under 4 - \$5.00

*Each child's ticket includes - pancake breakfast (which includes sausage, fruit cocktail, coffee, tea, juice), face painting & shopping for a special gift in the North Pole Gift Shoppe for that special someone.*

***You are welcome to take your own pictures.***

*Mail reservations or stop by the church office (294-7991)  
Office hours are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday.*

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### **SANTA BREAKFAST RESERVATION FORM**

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: First Presbyterian Church – 33 Park Place- Goshen NY 10924

Attention: ***Santa Breakfast***

Make Checks Payable to: **First Presbyterian Church**

## Come join the Fellowship Committee and make an Advent Wreath



Sunday, November 27, 2022 - during coffee hour, following church services.

Approximately 10:45am

Cost: \$20 per family (one wreath per family)

Please bring a dish to share.

Reservations and payment due by November 13, 2022.

Contact Diane Church (774) 279-0470 or Carolyn Keller (845) 294-5508 with questions.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of wreaths: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks out The First Presbyterian Church of Goshen and write "advent wreath" in the memo field. Please hand to Diane Church or Carolyn Keller, leave in the offertory plate, or leave with Pat in the office.

## POINSETTIAS to adorn our Sanctuary ORDERING DEADLINE DECEMBER 4

In honor of the birth of our Savior and in celebration of this glorious season, please consider helping us to decorate our Sanctuary with beautiful red, white, pink, and marbled poinsettias. They will be placed in the church for Saturday, Christmas Eve. One may take them home after the Christmas Service on Sunday.

Kindly consider ordering a plant in honor of or in memory of a special person(s) or loved ones, or simply to the Glory of God and in celebration of Christ's birth. **THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4. All orders must be accompanied with a check.** Please complete the form below and submit with your payment of \$15.50 per plant made payable to the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen (put **Poinsettias** in the memo). You may send in your order, drop it off to the office Mon.-Thurs. 9-12:45 or, put into collection plate on Sunday.

Thank you for helping us honor Christmas with festive flowers!

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**Yes, I would like to order Christmas poinsettias for the Sanctuary as follows:**

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Color</u>
_____	<b>Red</b>
_____	<b>White</b>
_____	<b>Pink</b>
_____	<b>Marbled</b>
_____	<b>Total @ \$15.50 each = \$_____ due</b>



Please make checks payable to the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen (put **Poinsettia** in the memo)

**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Kindly **PRINT** as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.)*

**To the Glory of God and:**

**In memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In celebration of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**To honor the birth of Jesus Christ:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER**



### **HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO:**

7	<i>Emma Glasse</i>	19	<i>Emma Boardman</i>
9	<i>Sara Hankins</i>		<i>Beth Laskoski</i>
	<i>Ashley Dinsmore</i>		<i>Julie Turi</i>
17	<i>Christine Person</i>	24	<i>Kathy Alevras</i>
	<i>Egidio Walsh</i>		<i>Amy Fontana</i>
18	<i>Bob Montalbano</i>	26	<i>Jon Hourahan</i>
		30	<i>Sue Stenson</i>

### **HAPPY NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES TO:**

4	<i>Rick and Sheila Heal</i>
8	<i>George and Barbara Schust</i>
11	<i>Craig and Arlete Shaeffer</i>
24	<i>John and Mary Lee Redman</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.*

***Congratulations to Alexis (Dickover) and Dominick Pistone on the birth of their daughter Kathryn Mae on April 27, 2022. The proud grandparents are Rob and Margaret Dickover.***

### **The Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The shawl ministry is looking for help with crocheting baptism blankets and shawls for women going through happy times or need support in sad times. This is a really appreciated mission, but we need help to continue. Don't know how to crochet? I can teach you if you would like to learn. Not interested in crocheting? We always are happy to accept offerings of yarn and gift bags.

Thanks.

Barbara Hankins



## **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:***

*Landon Schust and Family*

*Silas Wahl*

*Mary Kopec's mom*

*Jody and Mary Kopec's granddaughter, Isabella*

*Ned and Joyce Long*

*Lori Kilmer and family on the death of Lori's dad*

*Beth Laskoski and family on the death of Beth's mother.*

*Roxie Driver's cousin's daughter, Katherine*

*The Family of Colin Alevras*

*Kathy and Ron Alevras*

*Ron Alevras' brother*

*Linda Clark's nephew, Andrew DeBlock and his family*

## Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden



### **NOVEMBER UPDATE**

**Give thanks for all your blessings at our 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. We will place an order when we have 10 requests (as of now we have **FIVE** orders).

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#### **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.

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#### **“Stewards of Our Garden”**

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

##### **The NOVEMBER/EARLY DECEMBER Steward's Schedule:**

Barbara and George Hankins	November 1 – November 15
Bill Eustance	November 16 – November 30
Nancy Buckley	December 1 – December 15

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### **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.

## **A GUIDELINE FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ATTENDING SESSION MEETINGS**

All members of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen are welcome to attend general meetings of the Session which are currently held in Fellowship Hall on the third Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m.

If you attend a Session meeting to express concern for a topic that is before the Session, please let both the Clerk and the Moderator know of your desire to speak prior to the start of the meeting. The Moderator will inform the Session at the appropriate time that you would like to address the Session and that request must be moved/seconded and passed before you may speak. Please limit the time you use being as brief as possible. If, following your comment, any Session member wishes more information concerning what you have offered, they will ask.

The only portion of a meeting where you might be asked to step out is during discussion of sensitive matters concerning the church and/or where there is a concern for confidentiality. This should not be seen as an affront in any manner but is there for the best interest of the Session and congregation.

Church members should not interrupt the proceedings of the Session with personal questions or concerns. After the adjournment of the Session, the Moderator and Clerk will be happy to address your questions.

## **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 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

# THE KID'S PAGE

## Thank You, Lord

Make place mat collages for everyone in your family. Use the place mats for Thanksgiving dinner or any other meal.



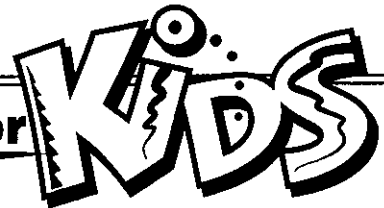
### You will need:

- construction paper (approximately 12" x 18")
- old magazines
- scissors
- glue
- clear contact paper

### How to make place mats:

- Cut out words and pictures from the magazines. Choose things that you are thankful for.
- Arrange them on the paper and glue them.
- Cut a piece of clear contact paper a little bigger than the construction paper.
- Place the contact paper over your collage and smooth it down.
- Fold the edges under so they stick to the back.

## Just for



### Psalm 107:1

Fill in the blanks with words that match the descriptions. Transfer the letters to the boxes below.  
Read the verse from Psalms.

Shape that symbolizes "love" \_\_\_\_\_

31 15 7 18 5

Part of a stove used for baking \_\_\_\_\_

12 3 24 39

Color made by red and yellow \_\_\_\_\_

28 42 7 8 27 37

A present \_\_\_\_\_

1 32 20 11

Something a girl wears \_\_\_\_\_

19 22 43 44 33

Something you open to go into a room \_\_\_\_\_

40 29 17 47

Opposite of soft (sound) \_\_\_\_\_

34 17 41 30

To take a long walk \_\_\_\_\_

14 2 9 38

A high body temperature \_\_\_\_\_

45 50 49 48 42

Equipment used to build or fix things \_\_\_\_\_

13 35 21 16 26

Edge of the sea \_\_\_\_\_

10 23 46 51 4

Home for a bee \_\_\_\_\_

6 25 36 4

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9	10		11	12		13	14	15
	16	17	18	19		20	21	22
	23	24		25	26		27	28
29	30		31	32	33		34	35
36	37		38	39	40	41	42	43
44		45	46	47	48	49	50	51

Answers: heart, oven, orange, gift, dress, door, loud, hike, fever, tools, shore, hive; Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	Halloween 12:30pm - NA @ FH	First Day of American Indian 9:30am - Food Pantry 6pm - Fellowship Committee 6:30pm - NA @ FH	4:30pm - Mission Committee 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:10pm - Worship and Music	6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - NA @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ FH 6pm - Friday Night Friends @	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Daylight Saving Time ends 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 5pm - Dinner Club @ Rustic	12:30pm - NA @ FH	Election Day 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - Outreach	7:30pm - Finance Committee	1pm - Wedding Rehearsal @ 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	Veterans Day 12:30pm - NA @ FH 3:30pm - Wedding @ S	9am - Food Pantry @ Parking
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10am - Deacon's Mtg. @ FH 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH	7pm - Session @ Zoom	6pm - Food Pantry @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	Set-up Craft Fair 12:30pm - NA @ FH	9am - Craft Fair @ FH
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Tower Tie Articles Due 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH		Thanksgiving Day	Native American Heritage 12:30pm - NA @ FH	
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Potluck	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH		6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - NA @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ FH	