

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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October 2022

Faith Matters

“The community continually committed themselves to learning what the apostles taught them, gathering for fellowship, breaking bread, and praying.”

(Acts 2:42 The Voice Translation)

Dear Friends,

I write this on the day after our Transition Team made a presentation about their work at a lovely catered luncheon provided by our Presbyterian Women. Thank you, PW! And thank you to our Team members who have given of themselves so generously during this time of transition.

Of course, church transitions are largely about change. And change, while being an *opportunity* as much as a challenge, is not always a welcomed process. Yet the hallmark of our Presbyterian tradition is the Great Reformation itself, a movement that was all about change:

- Change from an understanding of the Pope as sovereign to Jesus Christ as sovereign Lord.
- Change from a non-representative form of church governance to a polity that was of the people, by the people, and for the people.
- Change from a doctrine that often contradicted the bible to theological tenets underscored by scripture as taught us by Jesus and the apostles.
- Change from church order as a weapon of fear and narrowly defined religious indoctrination to a system of faithful witness that opens believers to an ever-blossoming relationship with Christ which is loving, compassionate, welcoming, joyful, nurturing, and constantly reforming.

Martin Luther, one of the heralds of the Reformation, was known to say, “*The whole being of any Christian is faith and love. Faith brings the person to God and love brings the person to people.*”

That statement is as true today as it was 700 years ago. We, recipients of God’s gracious love, are invited to be a part of a tradition of faith that opens doors to a spiritual journey which is transformative--on both a personal level as well as a corporate level.

Spiritually vital congregations make it a point to build a ministry on individual transformation that leads to a transformation of the larger gathered community. And we see evidence of that transformation having already begun at the outset of the *Acts of the Apostles* as the first 3,000 Christians take the experience of individual baptism by water and the Spirit and grow it into a powerful movement steeped in:

- the teachings of Christ,
- the fellowship of believers,
- the breaking of bread around the table of grace, and
- a commitment to prayer as a corporate act for the good of the world.

Later this month, we will celebrate the blessing of the Great Reformation to the church. And, as we do, we shall remember that Reformation is never a “once and done” act. For Protestant denominations throughout the world, the church reformed “is always in the process of being reformed.”

We know that this congregation will face change during 2023. With God’s blessing, you will elect a new pastor. And that is a change to be celebrated with gusto! Please don’t be disappointed or annoyed if that change pushes you in a new direction. Good change leads to good growth.

David Roozen (in *Faith Communities Today*) says that many church leaders describe spiritual vitality as the “relationship between the congregation and God, one another, and their neighbors.” And, “In this time of tremendous social change, many congregations are grappling to discern what it now means to hear God’s call and live authentically in an increasingly secular society. It may be that congregations, like society at large, are entering a time of transition from one era to the next.”

Transitions will happen, with us or without us. But if the Reformation has taught us anything, it has taught us that we can embrace change and come out on the other side stronger for it as we remain faithful in our calling to be the body of Christ at work teaching, gathering, praying, and sharing in deep communion with God and one another.

Thank you again to our dedicated Transition Team. Their report to the Session should be forthcoming in the not-too-distant future. Meanwhile, I encourage you not to fear the changes coming our way over the next 6 to 9 months. Rather, remember that, like any healthy organism, the church is always in the process of *becoming*; we are not caught in the static place of merely being.

And join me on October 2nd for World Communion Sunday! I look forward to seeing you and celebrating our faith together.

Yours faithfully,

Pastor Rhonda Myers



What a summer it's been! The organ arrived in early July. What a joy to see the console taken off the truck and put in place. The newly-redone reed pipes, all wrapped up like Christmas presents, were another thrill. Above all, the reward of our long patience and gracious stewardship comes in the music we now hear on Sundays.

Moving ahead, the chimes still need completing, and the Swell Mixture is being done as we speak, but I don't have a specific timeline just yet. Also, there is some extra-contractual work that absolutely has to be done--the previous job really did some harm--and that will be a small extra cost which we can afford, thanks to you.

The choir is back and handbells are soon to return. Linda and I have big ideas about Sunday School and, eventually, children's music.

It is a great joy to continue to lead and develop a classic church music program like ours. It is one of our "calling cards," a point of pride and pleasure for us. But sacred music, ultimately, is not about pride or pleasure. It is about praising the living God with the chords and tones which He built into the universe. The discover of music, and its long evolution, are our small gifts back to the Creator.

Sacred music isn't entertainment, and it isn't simply a pale and watered-down reflection of popular style. And indeed, today's popular styles are increasingly intolerable, full of foul and sexual imagery and overtly opposed to the Christian faith under any interpretation. We cannot, on any pretext, walk that road. We should rather seek what one theologian calls the "sober intoxication of the Holy Spirit," the genuine community blessed with song, rather than the false catharsis offered by the world.

Perhaps I sound too gloomy...I hope not! The modern world also brings us unique and rich blessings. But our praises of God must continue in all sincerity and humility and faith, don't they? It's your stewardship and love and vision and support that continue to allow that to flourish. Thank you, more than I can express.

Jonathan

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN ED.....

Friday Night Friends

First meeting of the year: October 14th
Location: Fellowship Hall
Cost: \$5.00/child max. \$15.00/family
Time: registration 5:30
Start: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Story, Crafts, Fun, and Dinner!

Sunday School to Host Coffee Hour

When: October 23
Theme: UN World Food Day; 150 countries across the world to celebrate and bring awareness to the need for sustainable food Supply for all.

More information to come in the next few weeks. Join the children of our church as they share food and fellowship.

Once again, it's time for.... Cookies-4-Caring



On October 9th our Teen Voices and Confirmants will prepare and package cookie care packages to send to some of our church family who are away at college or housebound. We do this project each year to reinforce in the teens the importance of remembering members of our church family who cannot be with us.

- Please contact Mark or Paty Glasse by Friday October 7th with names and addresses of anyone you want to include in this demonstration of caring.
- We appreciate any donations toward supplies and shipping.

Call or text Mark Glasse (845)325-4439 Paty Glasse (845)325-5229

FYI...

World Communion Sunday--A Presbyterian Gift

World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor. Dr. Kerr first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly (1930).

World Communion Sunday grew out of the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, come to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another.

Dr. Kerr's son, Donald, once said that "The concept spread very slowly at the start. People didn't give it a lot of thought. It was during the Second World War that the spirit caught hold, because we were trying to hold the world together. World Wide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn't until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed.

Join us October 2nd for World Communion Sunday.

Officer Training

All currently serving Session members and Deacons are encouraged to join together for Leader Training in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, October 15th from 9am to about noon. We will be talked about being a Healthy Congregation, with a program sponsored by Hudson River Presbytery. Then we will do some specific training re: the ordained offices of Ruling Elder and Deacon. All officers must have ongoing training. You'll surely have more fun doing this as a group than doing it individually with Pastor Rhonda!

Hearts & Homes for Refugees, a nonprofit based in Westchester County, **supports refugees and asylees** in lower NY. They have supported a family of 3 from Afghanistan in finding a home in Goshen and securing a job for the dad. We have had some church members volunteer to help with acclimating the family to the community. But the organization is now looking for volunteers with young children (a parent or grandparent e.g.) who might be willing to pick up the mother (Frishta) and her daughter (Yaman, age 2) once a week and take them to the library or the park or somewhere other than their home. It would help give them a change of scenery and provide some socialization for Yaman. If you can help, you can find a volunteer link on their website:
www.heartsandhomesforrefugees.org

From the Outreach Committee...

The Outreach Committee is holding a Progressive Dinner on Saturday, October 22.
We will arrive at Scott Roper's house for starters and then to Geri Corey's for the main meal and sides.
We will finish up with dessert at BA Long's house.
All are welcome!

Please plan to bring something to share at only one of the stops.
Call BA Long (845-343-7571) to let her know if you will bring a starter, a main meal dish or side, or a dessert. BA will have an urn of decaf coffee at her house and water, tea, etc.

The addresses are:
Scott Roper
5 Pleasant run Ridge Road
Goshen, NY

Geri Corey
115 Old Chester Road
Goshen, NY

BA Long
34 Hawthorne Drive
Middletown, NY
(Wildflowers is off Cottage Street. Go straight past the clubhouse on the right, cross a small street, past trees on the right, the second house on the right. Gate code is #8128 and you must use #sign first. There is room for two cars in the driveway; then park on the sidewalk side.

2022 CRAFT FAIR NEWS

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022 from 9:00 – 3:00

Our annual Craft Fair will be here before you know it! It's not too early to be thinking about what type of pie you'll be baking or what kind of soup you'll be simmering to fill our quart jars. We need bakers of pies, cakes, cookies, breads, etc. and also soup makers. We have pie plates, decorative plates, and plenty of quart jars. We have a few people interested in making cranberry chutney (yum). Our baked goods, soups, and chutney always sell out, so get here early before all the goodies are gone! We need a few people to sit at our baked goods table, so if anyone has a couple of hours to spare we could put you to work!

Besides all the food items, we have about 20 vendors coming. So bring your Christmas list and purchase your gifts at our fair. We have handmade scarves, mittens, and hats, lamps, local honey, quilted gift items, ornaments, doll clothes, jewelry, and much, much more!

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER



HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Dom Fontana</i>	20	<i>Diane Church</i>
4	<i>Brendan Donohue</i>		<i>Teresa von Pentz</i>
	<i>Sheila Heal</i>	24	<i>Carl Johnson</i>
7	<i>Anna Boese</i>		<i>Nancy Buckley</i>
	<i>Margaret Dickover</i>		<i>Susan Whitson (Paffenroth)</i>
12	<i>Mitch Weintraub</i>	25	<i>Taylor Panebianco</i>
16	<i>Diane George</i>	28	<i>Rob Person</i>
	<i>Karen Bende</i>	29	<i>Loretta Gould (Richner)</i>
		30	<i>Wendy Donohue</i>

HAPPY OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY TO:

3	<i>Wayne and Diane George</i>
4	<i>Rob and Nancy Warner</i>
8	<i>Alan and Elizabeth Sproul</i>
10	<i>Adam and Sue Whitson</i>
13	<i>John and Maryellen Bruno</i>
17	<i>Dave and Wendy Paffenroth</i>
19	<i>Bob and Lisa Montalbano</i>
22	<i>Carl and Elfriede Johnson</i>
	<i>Richard and Robin Paulus</i>
23	<i>Dom and Amy Fontana</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.*

Columbus Day

Just a reminder that the church office will be closed on Monday, October 10th in recognition of Columbus Day—or Indigenous Peoples Day, as some would say. The office will open up again the following morning at 9:00am.

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:

The Family of Eugene Tucker
The Family of Barbara Freda (Geri's Corey's sister)
The Family of Joan Howell
Keith Weintraub (Mitch's brother)
Linda from the Goshen Diner
Landon Schust
Silas Wahl
The Family of Louise McCutcheon (Nancy Warner's mother)
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.

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden



OCTOBER UPDATE

Celebrate the fall season 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).

The Memorial Columbarium

The final 28th 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 for keeping the garden neat!

The OCTOBER/EARLY NOVEMBER Steward's Schedule:

Bill Eustance	October 1 – October 15
Nancy Buckley	October 16 – October 31
Barbara and George Hankins	November 1 – November 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

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
Brendan Donohue
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

Make a "Harvest Cross"

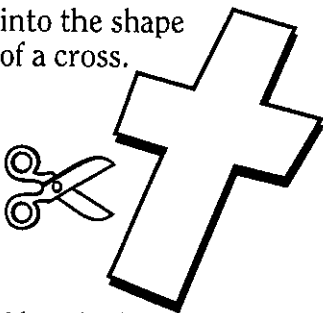
to remind you always
to be thankful.

You will need:

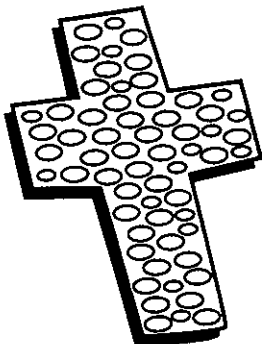
- ✦ a piece of cardboard
- ✦ glue
- ✦ bag of dried, mixed beans
- ✦ scissors


How to make it:

- ✦ Cut the cardboard into the shape of a cross.




- ✦ Glue the beans to the cross. You can arrange the beans in a pattern or glue them on randomly.



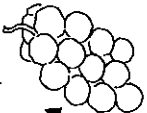


The Harvest

Harvest time was very important to the Israelites. They had three harvests each year: barley in spring; wheat in summer; fruits in autumn.



Find these foods that the Israelites harvested, and circle them.




GRAPES
BARLEY
ALMONDS
WHEAT

HERBS
NUTS
LEEKS
MELONS

OLIVES
BEANS
FIGS
RYE

APPLES
ONIONS
CUCUMBERS
POMEGRANATES

GOURDS
LENTILS



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

[NOTE: A completed crossword puzzle is in a file called KID1003BB on this month's CD and on the Web site: www.NewsletterNewsletter.com]

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Transition Team	26 12:30pm - NA @ FH	27 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - GAPNS Mtg. @ FH	28	29 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	30 12:30pm - NA @ FH 6pm - Wedding Rehearsal @	1 3pm - Wedding @ S
2 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Deacon's Meeting	3 12:30pm - NA @ FH	4 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH	5 4:30pm - Mission Committee 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:10pm - Worship and Music	6 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - NA @ FH	7 12:30pm - NA @ FH	8 9am - Food Pantry @ Parking 11am - Memorial Service @
9 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 11:30am - Teens Cookie	10 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day 12:30pm - NA @ FH	11 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - Outreach	12 7:30pm - Finance Committee	13 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	14 12:30pm - NA @ FH 6pm - Friday Night Friends @	15 9am - Elder/Deacon Training
16 Tower Tie Articles Due 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	17 8am - GAPNS Pictures @ B 12:30pm - NA @ FH	18 8am - GAPNS Pictures @ B 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH	19 7pm - Session @ Zoom	20 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	21 12:30pm - NA @ FH	22
23 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	24 12:30pm - NA @ FH	25 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH	26	27 10am - GAPNS @ FH 6pm - Food Pantry @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	28 10am - GAPNS @ FH 12:30pm - NA @ FH 5pm - Wedding Rehearsal @	29 2pm - Wedding @ S
30 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	31 Halloween 12:30pm - NA @ FH	1 First Day of American Indian 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH	2 4:30pm - Mission Committee 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:10pm - Worship and Music	3 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	4 12:30pm - NA @ FH	5