

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, Church Secretary

Telephone: (845) 294-7991; fax: (845) 615-1239
email: fpgoshen@gmail.com
Web Page: www.fpgoshen.org

September 2021

“Faith Matters”

“The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” (Mark 1:1)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Mark is believed to be the oldest of the 4 gospels and, quite likely, written in haste so that the good news of Jesus Christ would not be forgotten. Because of its inherent urgency, Mark is written in a rapid-fire manner to tell the story of God’s Son, who is always *on the move*. Mark’s first sentence plunges us *immediately* into the earthly ministry of Jesus, who is estimated to have walked over 1,000 miles a year in each of his 3 years of ministry.

Jesus planned to reach as many people as possible with the good news of an ever-present God who loves unconditionally and cares for all the beloved children without regard to those things that culture uses to segregate people: race, gender identification, wealth, politics, social standing, education level, vocation, etc. This gospel is a record of Jesus’ non-stop activity to *get the word out*; which may be why Mark uses the word “immediately” over 40 times to describe the Lord at work, engaging and serving the people while simultaneously involving his followers in worship and mission.

Jesus describes himself as a servant acting on God’s behalf to ease suffering, advance the Kingdom and *transform lives*. And his constant interaction with the people of Galilee, Judea and beyond help us see the importance of revealing God’s presence to a broken and hurting world.

In the Great Commission, at the end of Matthew’s gospel, we are instructed to “make disciples of all nations” through the witness of our lives and by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. We are called to reach out, to touch lives, to connect with others in the name of Jesus and to prayerfully and intentionally share the fruits of spiritual intimacy with others so that the world might begin to see the joy of Christ shining through us as, together, we travel *along the way*.

There is no better time than right now, as an ugly pandemic and political partisanship threaten the peace and unity of God’s children, to be disciples on a mission of sharing Christ with the world. To do this is to *be the church*, acting together, on the move with Jesus, helping our community discover, follow and worship the Lord whose passion and mission we dare to share.

There is a story at the end of Luke’s gospel about 2 dispirited disciples walking home from Jerusalem to Emmaus, talking about the recent events surrounding Jesus’ death. They are joined by a stranger who gradually reveals his identity to them. Luke tells us that Jesus draws near and accompanies them *on their journey* and that, at supper, he breaks the bread and they recognize his presence fully. In that moment of discovery, their lives are *transformed* and they choose to follow the One who continues to

be *on the move*, sharing the Good News of a life-changing incarnate love with the world.

This fall, in our worship, we will consider what it means to be a church *on the move*, bringing joy, love, unity and energy to a world that is dispirited by a COVID downturn and too much political wrangling. “Being Church Together,” we will explore the blessings of discipleship as we:

- *behold* the Lord,
- *belong* to a community which bears his name, and
- *become* more and more the disciples he urges us to be.

We may not walk a thousand miles with Jesus this year, friends, but we can certainly follow along the way of the Lord, wherever it may take us. I hope you will join us this fall as we celebrate Christ and show the world why faith matters! For we are the church reformed, and always reforming.

Pastor Rhonda

We Want to Know Your Story!

We hope the summer has been kind to you and that you are feeling refreshed as we begin a new church year.

As you know, we are working with Crows Feet Consulting to help us plan for our future. You have been selected to participate in the first step, which is to conduct a congregational assessment. This assessment will provide a clear picture of who we are as a church and what directions are most important for our future.

The tool we will use is the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT), which will provide key indicators of our congregational health along with areas of challenge and potential growth. It will help us to collect and understand the range of views that exist at the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen and the possibilities, willingness, capacity and energy for moving our ministry into the future.

If you have provided us with a current email address, you should have received a unique web link to complete the assessment online. If you would prefer to take the assessment using a paper copy, please let us know and we will provide you with one.

NOTE: If there is only one email address for all members of your household, it may be tempting to have one person take the survey on behalf of the family. However, *please be sure your spouse or partner and all young adults living in your home have an opportunity to complete the survey.* INDIVIDUAL INPUT is key to our gaining insight into overall perceptions and experiences.

Please set aside enough time to answer all the questions. This will take about 20 minutes of your time. All survey responses are strictly anonymous.

Thank you for your willingness to be a part of this congregational assessment and for helping to build the church's future. Please also plan on joining us for the Interpretation of our survey responses with a consultant from Crows Feet Consulting on **Saturday, September 11th**.

If you have questions, please contact Sue Varden at svarden@hvc.rr.com or 845-649-7830. If you need a paper copy of the survey, please let us know by calling the church office at 845-294-7991 or by emailing us at fpgoshen@gmail.com

May Christ richly bless our future with energy, intelligence, imagination and love!

Once Again: Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

According to the National Study of Congregations' Economic Practices, 78% of monetary gifts to a church are given during worship services. And when you are not passing the plate in worship due to COVID-19 protocols, the opportunity to share an offering with your church is diminished. So, the Finance & Administrative Committee would like to thank all those who have continued to meet (or exceed) their pledges during a challenging year. Because of your generosity, we are able to *Be the Church, Together*. You have made a difference and we are grateful for your gifts of time, treasure and talent. Thank you. And for those who have not maintained their financial commitment for 2021, we would encourage you to consider doing so now as summer is always a bit of a lean time for giving.

Presbytery of Hudson River

The Presbytery of Hudson River will hold its 3rd Stated Meeting of 2021 on Tuesday, September 21st. They will meet via Zoom rather than at the previously scheduled Holmes Conference Center. Pre-registration is required for all participants. Mal Stewart and Sue Varden will represent our Session at this meeting.

Office Hours

Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, September 6th, in recognition of Labor Day. Office hours will resume on Tuesday the 7th at 9:00am.

Christian Education announces return of

Friday Night Friends

Friday, October 8th 6 – 8pm

walk in registration at 5:30

First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall

Dinner, Bible story, crafts, STEM project, and FUN, FUN, FUN

Cost: \$5.00 per child max. family cost \$15.00 (to cover dinner and supplies)

For questions or if you want more information contact:

Linda Boardman at: Linda.Sundayschool@gmail.com

Allison Csernai at: aac0605@gmail.com

Or call: 845 665-9545

Volunteers needed to help make/serve dinner, with crafts, or storytelling.

SAVE THE DATE:
Midnight Run Is Back!

Our first run is now scheduled for a breakfast run Saturday, October 23rd.

Details and supply donation list will be available soon. Please check your closets for gently used men's and women's fall and winter clothing. Volunteers will be needed for sorting and assembling supplies before the run; drivers and helpers needed the morning of the run. Bakers to concoct our famous breakfast casseroles ahead of time (to be reheated) or early that morning will also be needed.

It's a great way for your teens to earn community service hours and it's a great way for all of us to gain perspective: the lives we touch on the streets encounter challenges much greater than any most of us face here in Goshen and the surrounding communities. Please consider how you may be able to help.

Prayerfully submitted and with thanks,

Wendy Bynum-Wade

Arlete Shaeffer

Midnight Run Coordinators

To volunteer your services, please leave a note in the collection plate, leave a message with Pat in the church office or email wendybynumwade@gmail.com

Cell/text 845-629-4324

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS AND CO-CHAIRPERSONS

Christian Education:	Linda Boardman (Chair) – (845) 665-9545 Marlene Gaynor (Co-Chair) – (845) 469-4280
Fellowship:	Brad McLeland (Chair) – (845) 782-5273 Bill Eustance (Co-Chair) – (845) 800-0083
Finance and Administration:	Mal Stewart (Chair) – (845) 294-7243 Jennifer Ellis (Co-Chair) – (315) 525-1841
Mission:	Geri Corey (Chair) – (845) 294-8414 Nancy Buckley (Co-Chair) – (845) 673-9336
Outreach/Communications:	BA Long (Chair) – (845) 343-7571 Rob Person (Co-Chair) – (203) 500-9031
Personnel:	Ken Phelan (Chair) – (914) 536-7319 Mal Stewart (Co-Chair) – (845) 294-7243
Property Management:	Brian Meek (Chair) – (845) 294-2859 Rick Heal (Co-Chair) – (845) 294-3565
Worship and Music:	Anne Wood (Chair) – (845) 294-3207 Bill Powers (Co-Chair) – (210) 598-9169

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO:



1	<i>Rebecca Boardman</i>	19	<i>Emma Jorgensen</i>
	<i>Elfriede Johnson</i>	20	<i>Evan Gallet</i>
	<i>Emily Garbutt</i>	22	<i>Bill Hodges</i>
5	<i>Patrick Ellis</i>		<i>Grace Lanuti</i>
10	<i>Nancy Warner</i>		<i>Nancy Mason</i>
	<i>Gabriela Ukejianya</i>	23	<i>Owen Hourahan</i>
12	<i>Tom McDowell</i>	26	<i>Abigail Boardman</i>
15	<i>Adriana Walsh</i>		<i>Pam Pylant</i>
17	<i>Matthew Kopec</i>		<i>Kiersten Warner</i>
	<i>Denise Panebianco</i>	28	<i>Kevin Hankins</i>
	<i>Daniel Serkes</i>	30	<i>Michele Meek</i>
18	<i>Louise Spencer</i>		

HAPPY SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY TO:

9 *Jody and Mary Kopec*

*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.*



PRAYER CORNER

The following members or friends are going through a time in which they have asked for prayer by the church. Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ron Alebras
Ann (Strong) Blake
Barbara Cody
Dori Dodson
Mary Lee Farris and her sister
Carol Gabella's nephew, Frank
Susan Johnson
Mary Kopec's cousin, Cathy
Maria Kurt
James Magee
Dolores Mollicone
Eileen Myslinski
Dave and Wendy Paffenroth
Carolyn Reynolds
Matt Skyer
Gary Smith
Christopher Tucker
Kenneth Van Etten
Mitch Weintraub
Linda Clark's nephew, Sean Zwart

Susan Ambrsino
Richard Brahs
Lynn Costa and Son
Everyone serving in the Military
Judy Fazio
Barbara and George Hankins
Rosemary Joy
Jeff Kott and Natalia
Patricia Lawlor
Kelly Magee Thrush
Richard Montalbano
Amy (Thompson) Nguye
Josephine Pecoraro
Karen Saleski
Mary Rita Schlagel
Louise Spencer
Lori Kilmer's mom, Learle VanEmburg
Ashley Wade
Jerry Westphal

Janet Begnoche
Scott Brinkley
Jean and Bruce Crandall
James, Max, and Liam Feragola
Charles Fritz
Kevin and Sara Hankins
Regina Kenny
Brenda Kujawski
Maggie and Quinn
Evelyn Mercado
Kevin Murphy
Owen
Carlos and Miarose Reyes
Tom Sawyer
Eva Sickler
Barbara Hankins' sister, Virginia Stubenrauch
Sam Wallis
Orra Wood

(If you or someone you know would like to be on this list or if you would like to take a name off the list, please call the church office and the name(s) will be included/omitted next month.)

PLEASE PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2021

Every year, the Presbytery of the Hudson River charges every member church an assessment according to the current active membership. Our recorded active membership is currently **270** and **our assessment per member** (not per family) **for 2021 is \$38.83**, which is a total of **\$10,484.10** to be taken from our operating budget. Please assist with this expense and write a check for your family assessment and either mail it to the church or place it in the Sunday offering plate. We ask that you pay this by February 1, 2021. Thanks for doing your share.



Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

SEPTEMBER UPDATE

**Peaceful, tranquil...our garden brings contentment in the fall.
Count your many blessings as we continue to enjoy the gift of 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 only have one order).

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 SEPTEMBER/early OCTOBER Steward's Schedule:

Bill Eustance	September 1 – September 15
Barbara and George Hankins	September 16 – September 30
Bill Eustance	October 1 – October 15

CALLING ANY & ALL VOLUNTEERS!

“Helping Hands” are always needed and certainly welcomed to help maintain the garden. Just reach out to Pat in the church office to sign-up and be added to our Stewards 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
Ken Phelan
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
Jane Geyer
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, Church Secretary
Deborah Hourahan, Church Treasurer
William Kozireski, Church Sexton
Mitch Weintraub, Church Sexton**

THE KID'S PAGE

Make a "Prayer Pretzel"



Pretzels were first made by monks in Rome during the 5th century. The shape looks like a person's arms folded in prayer. You can make your own pretzels.



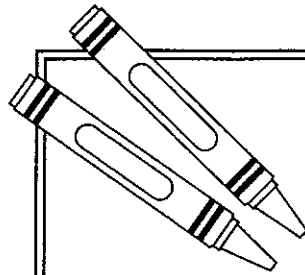
You will need:

- A roll of refrigerated bread stick dough
- One egg yolk
- 1 1/2 tablespoons of milk
- Cookie sheet
- Coarse salt



How to make them:

- Shape each piece of dough into a pretzel shape.
- Place on cookie sheet.
- Brush with a mixture of the egg yolk and milk.
- Sprinkle with salt. (You can use parmesan cheese, if you prefer.)
- Bake according to package directions.

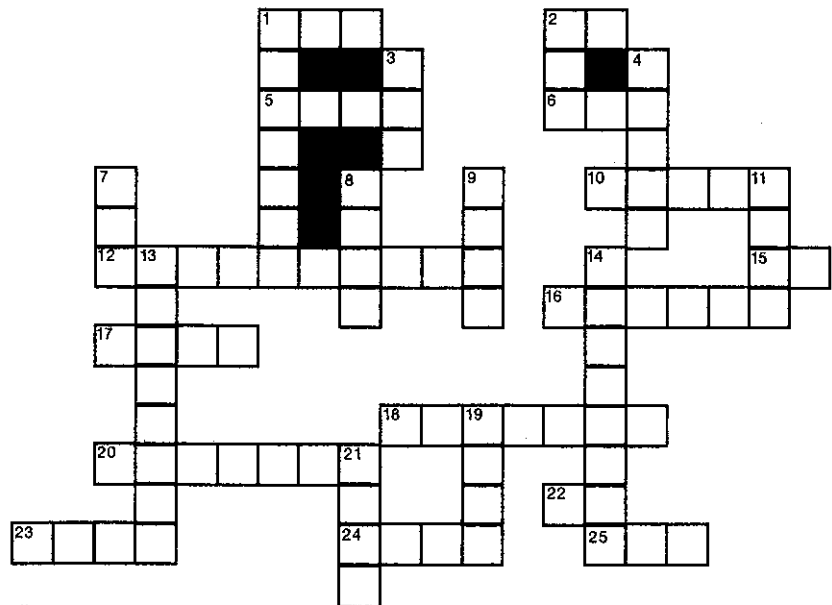


Just for KIDS

"Lord, Teach Us to Pray"

Jesus' disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray."
Find the special prayer that Jesus taught them. Fit the words from the list into the squares on the puzzle.
Then, transfer them to the blank lines below.

be	for	come	name	Father	hallowed
us	not	each	sins	against	temptation
we	our	Give	your	Forgive	
And	who	into	bread	Kingdom	
day	also	lead	daily	everyone	



" _____ 16 _____ 14 _____ 22 _____ 11 _____ 19 _____ 11 _____ 18 _____ 24 _____
 _____ 23 _____ 15 _____ 21 _____ 25 _____ 6 _____ 10 _____ 4 _____ 20 _____ 15 _____ 6 _____ 9 _____
 _____ 3 _____ 2A _____ 5 _____ 20 _____ 13 _____ 2D _____ 9 _____ 10 _____ 15 _____
 _____ 1A _____ 17 _____ 15 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 12 _____" Luke 11:2-4

Answer: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.

© Both of these activities are available on the CD.

SUN 29	MON 30	TUE 31	WED Sep 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
<div>● 9:30am Wor</div>	<div>● 12:30pm NA</div> <div>● 7pm AA</div>	<div>● 9:30am Foo</div> <div>● 6:30pm NA</div>	<div>● 4:30pm Mis</div>			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<div>● 9:30am Wor</div> <div>● 10:30am De</div>	<div>Labor Day</div> <div>● 12:30pm NA</div>	<div>● 9:30am Foo</div>	<div>● 7:30pm Fina</div>		<div>● 6pm Friday I</div>	<div>● 9am Food P</div> <div>● 10am Surve</div>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<div>● 9:30am Wor</div> <div>● 9:30am Chu</div>	<div>● 12:30pm NA</div>	<div>● 9:30am Foo</div> <div>● 6:30pm Outi</div>	<div>First Day of His</div>			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<div>Tower Tie Artic</div> <div>● 9:30am Wor</div> <div>● 9:30am Chu</div>	<div>● 12:30pm NA</div>	<div>● 9:30am Foo</div>	<div>● 7pm Sessio</div>			<div>● 9am Food P</div>
26	27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2
<div>● 9:30am Wor</div> <div>● 9:30am Chu</div> <div>● 3pm Presby</div>	<div>● 12:30pm NA</div>	<div>● 9:30am Foo</div>			<div>● 4pm Weddir</div>	<div>● 3pm Weddir</div>

