

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

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September 2022

“Faith Matters: Embracing the Future”

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans...to give you a future with hope.”
(Jeremiah 29:11 NRSVue*)

My dear Goshen Presbyterian Friends,

I hope this summer has been a good one for you and that you’ve come to this Fall season refreshed and ready to begin a new year of hope-filled discipleship. Our Christian Education and Music programs begin anew this month, and our Sunday worship will be expanded again to include a third hymn and a Children’s Message. Singing, Ringing, and Engaging the Spirit through prayer and the preached Word always brings us such joy when we worship together as one body united in Christ.

And, as part of that united body, you know that a Transition Team was elected by the Session earlier this year for a time of discernment and planning. The Team was charged with reflecting on the church’s readiness for ministry in a new era and making recommendations regarding the church’s ministry that will, with God’s help, support the work of an eventual Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

The Transition Team has studied the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) Report in depth, met bi-weekly with a church consultant provided us by the Presbytery of Hudson River, and engaged in wide-ranging conversations about the congregation’s history, theology, ideology, and identity as a Presbyterian community of faith. The Team has also conducted Table-Top Conversations with members at Coffee Hour regarding topics vital to being the church at work in the world today and has conducted videotaped interviews of congregants willing to share their deep connection to the Goshen church.

The Team has taken what they’ve learned from you, and what they’ve gleaned by the Holy Spirit through its conversations with you and each other, and has begun to prepare a Report that is intended to be the foundation for the PNC’s Ministry Information Form used in seeking your next pastor. Excited to be nearing the end of its process, the Team would like to include you in a large-group conversation about a vision for the church’s ministry going forward.

So, you are being invited to join the Transition Team for a catered luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday, September 25th. The theme for the day will be:

Embracing Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: A Forum to Share Experiences and Ideas

After sharing a meal, the Team will highlight the congregation's history and show how that history has helped shape our identity as a Presbyterian congregation. The Team will also report on shared experiences, show some of those videotaped interviews, present a preliminary oral report on its work, and invite conversation about the congregation's future ministry. Your participation in this event is vital to the success of the Transition Team in producing a Report that is both useful and meaningful to a forthcoming PNC.

Through the prophets and saints, the Lord has assured us that there is hope for a future that is God-given. The Transition Team and I pray that you'll want to be a part of that future as it applies to the church and that you'll assist us in taking next steps by being part of this upcoming conversation. And, good news, there's a luncheon provided, too!

Thank you for your continued support of the church,

The Rev. Dr. Rhonda Myers
Interim Pastor

*The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible was recently updated, and the "ue" designation stands for Updated Edition.



Hello Everyone,

The new season is almost upon us. Would you like to consider participating in the church's music ministries? You don't have to answer right away!

We're planning to reconvene the Adult Choir and would welcome new participants. Even if you have limited time...say, you can only commit to Advent and Christmas...don't hold back. Talk to me and let's work something out.

Are you drawn to handbells? To play them is to love them. You might give The Emmaus Ringers a try!

Do you have a solo piece that might fit the worship service, and would you like to sing it on a Sunday?
Do you play an instrument?
Talk to me!

If you are a parent of a musical young person, and think that participation would be a good idea...talk to me!

I'm looking forward to the future, as we make a fourth century of history in Goshen.

Hope to see you soon.

Blessings,
Jonathan

FYI...

Sunday School News

The first day of Sunday School for the 2022-2023 year will be September 11th. Please mark your calendars now. As usual, the children will stay though the Children's Message and then head off to their classes. We have some special plans for our Kick-off Sunday and look forward to your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or neighbor children joining us for a fun celebration of faith.

Our Theme for the year will be "**Getting to Know You**," and some of the topics will include:
Making Peace, Practicing Generosity, Forgiveness, Honoring the Sabbath,
Loving God and Neighbor, and Singing a New Song.

One of our regular Sunday School teachers will be unable to teach this fall. If you could make a 4-week commitment to teach on one of the above topics, it would be very helpful. The lessons will be provided to you in advance of your teaching dates. If you can volunteer, please contact our Christian Education Committee chairperson, Linda Boardman at: linda.sundayschool@gmail.com or call her at 845-665-9545.

Keep an eye out: More Information on the **Teen Voices** program is forthcoming. And **Friday Night Friends** will begin in October.

Confirmation Class Parent Meeting

Confirmation Class will begin for Junior High age youth this fall as well. The instructors will be Mark and Paty Glasse and Pastor Rhonda. If you have a child you would like to enroll in this class, please join us for a parent meeting after worship on September 11th. Grab a cup of coffee and meet us downstairs in one of the classrooms.

Transition Team Luncheon

The Transition Team will be hosting a lunch for the congregation in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, September 25th. The purpose is to update you on our transition process. We will share a historical timeline that gives clues as to the identity, purpose, and mission of the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen throughout the years and want you on hand to add to the timeline those moments in your life when your membership in the church was particularly energizing. See the Pastor's Letter for more information. And plan to join us.

A Thank You Note from Church World Service for Supporting Blanket Drive

"There are no words to explain how good it is to do online lessons in a special space dedicated to us."

Reading that quote from a Ukrainian refugee child made my heart smile, and I wanted to take a moment to let you know how thankful I am for your support of CWS Tools and Blankets. Each time your congregation hosts an event you offer hope to someone feeling hopeless. Like the thousands of Ukrainian families who fled to Moldova after Russia's unprovoked attack. Lives were turned upside down—especially for Ukrainian refugee children who left behind their school, friends and the only life they've ever known.

But because of your compassionate action, children and their families have hope. Through our partnership with the local organization, Diaconia, we've created ways to help refugee children feel safe and regain a sense of normalcy. Through the Refugee Hub, children have education and mental health

support. And it's making a BIG difference. We have also shipped our local partner a large shipping container of supplies that includes: 2,000 wool blankets, 1,200 school kits, 12,000 hygiene kits and 375 baby care kits!

This great work is only possible because of generous congregations like yours. On behalf of all of our neighbors you've helped, Thank You! Continued Blessings,

Matthew Stevens, Director of Congregational Campaigns, Church World Service

Labor Day—Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 5th in honor of our national celebration of Labor Day. The Church Office will open again Tuesday, September 6th @ 9am.

Looking Ahead—Leader Training—October 15th

Our Presbyterian Polity requires that church leaders be trained on an ongoing basis. Some of that training is done during monthly Session and Deacons meetings but at least one Leader Training event per year is expected of all PC (USA) congregations. Leader Training for all currently serving Elders and Deacons of the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday morning, October 15th, from 9am to Noon.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS AND VICE-CHAIRS

Christian Education:	Linda Boardman (Chair) – (845) 665-9545 Marlene Gaynor (Vice-Chair) – (845) 469-4280
Fellowship:	Diane Church (Chair) – (845) 782-5273 Mark Glassé (Vice-Chair) – (845) 325-4439
Finance and Administration:	Mal Stewart (Chair) – (845) 294-7243 Scott Roper (Vice-Chair) – (914) 426-8574
Mission:	Geri Corey (Chair) – (845) 294-8414 Nancy Buckley (Vice-Chair) – (845) 673-9336
Outreach/Communications:	BA Long (Chair) – (845) 343-7571 Kevan Ottochian (Vice-Chair) – (845) 494-8873
Personnel:	Jennifer Ellis (Chair) – (315) 525-1841 Mal Stewart (Vice-Chair) – (845) 294-7243
Property Management:	Jody Kopec (Chair) – (845) 542-7874
Worship and Music:	Anne Wood (Chair) – (845) 294-3207 Bill Powers (Vice-Chair) – (210) 598-9169

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER



HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Rebecca Boardman</i>	20	<i>Evan Gallet</i>
	<i>Elfriede Johnson</i>	22	<i>Bill Hodges</i>
	<i>Emily Garbutt</i>		<i>Grace Lanuti</i>
5	<i>Patrick Ellis</i>		<i>Nancy Mason</i>
10	<i>Nancy Warner</i>	23	<i>Owen Hourahan</i>
15	<i>Adriana Walsh</i>	26	<i>Abigail Boardman</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.*

Congratulations to Kendra and Timothy Schust on the birth of their son Corbin Ryan Schust born on July 14, 2022, He joins his twin brothers Landon and Parker. Barbara and George Schust are the proud grandparents.

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
Robert Kingsley
Silas Wahl
The Family of Louise McCutcheon (Nancy Warner's mother)*

*I wrote these notes to read at Steve Coon's funeral service but was unable to attend due to another commitment.
Cecile Ayres*

In Memory of Steve Coon

I don't remember how we met Steve and Carol. It might have been through church but more likely, Dick was in his yard, Steve was in his yard and one of them crossed the street and the friendship began. Both Steve and Richard enjoyed working in the yard. Come winter, Steve would get out the snow blower and take care of his neighbors on his side of the street, especially Bob and Corinne's walk, and Richard would do the same on our side. If something needed fixing at the church, Rev. Kingsley would call Dick because he had a pickup truck or he would call Steve and the two of them would get together and off they would go. Over the years one would call the other if bored or just looking to get out of the house and they would find somewhere to go. When Steve and Carol got the house on Pleasure Lake, we went there a few times and always enjoyed being there. For many years when we went on trips, Steve would look after our house, bring in the newspapers and water the plants. Our dog went to the kennel but when we got the cat, he would see that it got fed, had water and clean out the kitty litter. But there was one thing that stopped him from coming to the house – the small hole in the gutter. When it rained, going up the steps was similar to walking under a waterfall. I guess he didn't like getting wet!

In conclusion, Steve was a wonderful friend, kind and thoughtful, and will be missed.

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden



SEPTEMBER UPDATE

Welcome the fall at our Meditation Garden with our Creator God...

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).

Only ONE Niche Remains 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 \$50,000.***

“Stewards of Our Garden”

Special thanks to our dedicated Stewards for keeping the garden neat!

The SEPTEMBER/EARLY OCTOBER Steward's Schedule:

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

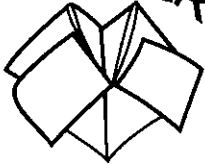
Moderator of Deacons: Carolyn Keller

STAFF

Jonathan B. Hall, Minister of Music
Patricia Schwetje, Office Administrator
Deborah Hourahan, Church Treasurer
William Kozireski, Church Sexton
Mitch Weintraub, Church Sexton

THE KID'S PAGE

LITTLE BITS OF PROVERBS



You will need:

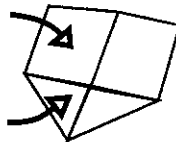
- a square piece of paper
- a pen or pencil

How to make:

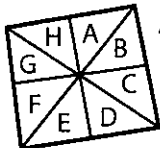
1. Fold paper in half and then again.



2. Open it and then fold the corners to the center.

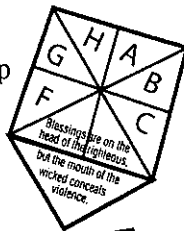


3. Turn it over and fold the new corners to the center.

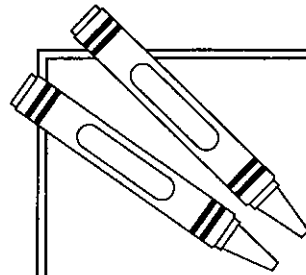
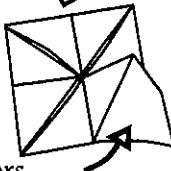


4. Write a letter (A-H) on each triangle.

5. Lift each flap and write a verse from Proverbs on it.



6. Pull out flaps on underside to make four little cones to hold your fingers.



Just for KIDS

What Am I?

We work on gaining this all our lives. It's especially important when we're in school! Use a Bible (NIV) to look up the verses listed below. Find a word in each verse that fits in the boxes. The heavy boxes spell the answer.

1 Corinthians 8:1		N				
Philippians 1:9					H	
2 Peter 1:5						S
			A			
Matthew 24:32				S		
John 7:15				R		
					I	
2 Peter 3:18					E	
		W				

"By wisdom a house is built, ... through _____ its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."

Answer: know, insight, goodness, always, lesson, learning, foundation, grace, powers, knowledge

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:15am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	29 12:30pm - NA @ FH	30 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH	31	1 7:30pm - NA @ FH	2 12:30pm - NA @ FH	3 1pm - Diva Dance @ FH
4 9:15am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	5 Labor Day 12:30pm - NA @ FH	6 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH	7 4:30pm - Mission Committee 6pm - Fellowship Committee 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:10pm - Worship and Music	8 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	9 12:30pm - NA @ FH	10 9am - Food Pantry @ Parking
11 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Deacon's Mtg. @ 11am - Confirmation Class	12 12:30pm - NA @ FH	13 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - Outreach	14 7:30pm - Finance Committee	15 First Day of Hispanic 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	16 12:30pm - NA @ FH	17
18 Tower Tie Articles Due 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 2pm - Club Z @ FH	19 12:30pm - NA @ FH	20 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH	21 7pm - Session @ Zoom	22 6pm - Food Pantry @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	23 12:30pm - NA @ FH	24
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 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	30 12:30pm - NA @ FH 6pm - Wedding Rehearsal @	1 3pm - Wedding @ S