

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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April 2024



Christ is risen! The forty days of Lent give way to fifty days of Easter. The next big milestone is Pentecost, the second most important day in the life of the church, at least historically speaking. This year it's on May 19.

I remember when mainline churches tried to emphasize Pentecost with all sorts of fun things: red balloons, everyone shouting in a different language at once, a bit of merry liturgical chaos. One year, I even went so far as to have my choir sing the Old Hundredth...in *Esperanto*. No, I don't plan to do that again...but it was fun!

Nowadays, Pentecost seems more sedate, at least gimmick-wise. First Goshen has historically done a lovely job with red candles and runners in the chancel, emphasizing the color of the tongues of fire that came down that day. There have been some balloons, too. It's all good.

But we can always return to the intense wonder of the day itself. Fifty days after Passover is the feast called *Shavuot* in Hebrew. *Shavuot* is the plural of *shavua*, which means *week*. It's a "week of weeks," or 49 days, and the fiftieth day is the celebration of the first fruits of the harvest. Often called the "Feast of Weeks," it is intimately connected to the harvest. Traditionally you count every day in between: the counting of the *omer*.

In the Greek widely spoken in first-century Palestine, the word used was *Pentecost*, which means simply *fiftieth*.

What happened on that very special Fiftieth Day, that very first Pentecost of the New Covenant? It was the day that the Holy Spirit came down on the disciples and fired them up—quite literally!—to spread the Good News. On that first day of the Church's public existence, as we read in Acts chapter 2, about three thousand people became believers: the first fruits of a glorious, ongoing harvest.

Anyhow, let's celebrate the joy of Easter and look ahead to the glories of Pentecost. The music will try, as always, to match the mood.

As to organ recitals, my leg is rapidly improving but fine motor control is still difficult. Sooner or later I'll resume them, even if means music without pedal parts.

New choir and handbell folks are still welcome!

Meanwhile, a blessed, happy Easter and a very cheerful spring to all.

--Jonathan

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. We have changed 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 Kingsley Family

Nancy Mason

Sara Simas

Robert Ryan, a friend of Jody Kopec

Judy Green and Family on the death of LeRoy

Kathy Jones and Family on the death of Stark

Jose Hernandez

The Family of John Caramanica who passed away. He is Kim Hodges cousin.

Kevan Ottochians's Dad

Joan Clifford, a friend of Jody Kopec

Jerry Lanuti

Amy Edmonson

Joyce Long on the death of her husband, Edward Long

The Family of Dom Fontana on the death of Dom's dad.

Pastoral Care

While we are without a permanent pastor, John Redman will handle any pastoral care requests.

You can reach him at 914-474-0722.

NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE.....



We are planning another Jo Wolfe Dinner Club on June 2. So set the date aside. The restaurant will be announced soon. Bingo will be back in April.

The Outreach/Fellowship Committee will meet on April 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Coffee hour hosts are needed. Please contact Diane Church at 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.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS TO:

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 2 | <i>Ingrid Warner</i> | 22 | <i>Mary Kopec</i> |
| 4 | <i>James Magee</i> | 27 | <i>Blayne Gibbons</i> |
| 16 | <i>Nicholas Signorelli</i> | 28 | <i>Carol Hoffman</i> |
| 17 | <i>Emma Hourahan</i> | 29 | <i>Elizabeth Sproul</i> |
| | <i>Tom Sawyer</i> | | |



HAPPY APRIL ANNIVERSARIES TO:

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 13 | <i>Brian and Michele Meek</i> |
| 24 | <i>Kevin and Sarah Hankins</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.

Guest Preachers for April

- April 7 – Bill Powers
- April 14 – Rev. Jeff Leininger
- April 21 – John Redman
- April 28 – Rev. Jeff Leininger

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 parlor on the third Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m.

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.

Recitals Return!

Rejoice! On Easter Tuesday, April 2 at 12:15, Jonathan will resume the popular series of free noontime recitals. Since he still has limited mobility, the programs will be “organ plus” – they will include piano and other surprises. Come one, come all, and tell your friends!

Financial Commitments

If you haven't made a financial commitment for 2024 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 2024

A message from the Treasurer: Please consider paying your **per capita assessment for 2024** to offset the more than \$8,000 the church must pay out to cover expenses for the Presbytery of Hudson River, Synod of the Northeast and General Assembly of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This year it remains at **\$39.75 per member** (not per family). 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, 2024. Thank you for doing your share to support the expense of being a church in active ministry.

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.

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden



APRIL UPDATE

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

PLEASE NOTE: A niche in the Memorial Columbarium has become available. If you are interested in purchasing it, please contact Pat in the church office.

The price of the niche is \$2,800. There are two payment options:

12 month = \$250/month for 12 months (\$3,000)

18 month = \$180/month for 1 month (\$3,240)

Once this niche is sold, the Session/Congregation will need to consider if constructing a second/third wall is desired and/or financially possible. If it is, a new estimate for the work will need to be created, considered, approved and project timeline established.

“Stewards of Our Garden”

Special thanks to our dedicated Stewards who work hard to keep our garden beautiful!

The APRIL/and early MAY Steward’s Schedule:

Nancy Buckley	April 1 – April 15
Bill Eustance	April 16 – April 30
Barbara and George Hankins	May 1 – May 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 2024

**Marlene Gaynor
George Hankins
Bill Powers
Mal Stewart**

Class of 2025

**Diane Church
Linda Clark
Jody Kopec
Felicia Van Doran**

Class of 2026

**Jennifer Ellis
Michael Coyne
Jon Hourahan
Kevan Ottochian**

Clerk of Session: Felicia Van Doran

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2024

**Patrick Ellis
Bill Keller
Barbara Schust
George Schust**

Class of 2025

**Cecile Ayres
Michael Csernai
Carol Gabella
Jennifer Serkes**

Class of 2026

**Diana Bowe
Carolyn Keller
Cheryl Zis
Sam Fontana**

Moderator of Deacons: Carolyn Keller

STAFF

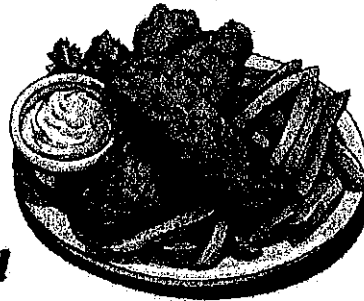
**Jonathan B. Hall, Minister of Music
Patricia Schwetje, Office Administrator
Deborah Hourahan, Church Treasurer**

Tastefully British
FISH & CHIPS
DINNER

FRIDAY APRIL 5, 2024 FROM 5-7P.M



PresbyBuild



Dinners Include:

Fish, Fries, Coleslaw, Dessert & Beverage.

Chicken can be substituted

Tickets:

Adults \$20 /Kids 11 and Under \$10

Advance Sales Only

Orders & Payment must be received by April 1. Pay by cash or check at Church office. (Mon- Thurs 9 a.m - 1 p.m.)

Call Pat (845) 294-7991

Hosted By:

First Presbyterian Church In Goshen

33 Park Place, Goshen NY 10924

****All Proceeds are for the benefit of Presbybuild and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh ****

DINE IN OR TAKE OUT

THE KID'S PAGE

Make a



You will need:

- 30 unlined index cards
- markers
- stickers

How to make:

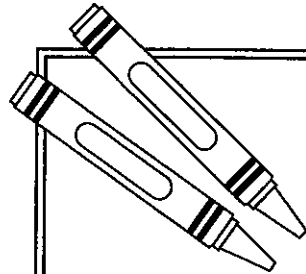
Write each of the words from the list below on its own card. Make a second set. Decorate with stickers or markers.

Play:

The object of the game is to find cards that match. Shuffle all the cards. Lay them face down in 5 rows of 6 cards. Choose 2 cards. Keep them if they match. If they don't, return them to their places face down. Continue until all cards have been matched.

Words to write:

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| Faith | Love |
| Healing | Help |
| Jesus | Patience |
| Kindness | Mercy |
| Gentleness | Peace |
| Generosity | Hope |
| Prayer | Joy |
| Grace | |



Just for **KIDS** **HELP!**

Wouldn't it be nice if we never had to make any hard decisions or choices, or face any big challenges? Sometimes we just don't know what to do! But there is help!

Read James 5:13-18.
What do these verses tell us to do?

	A	F	L	P	T
	C	H	N	R	W
	E	I	O	S	Y

Use the graph to find the answer.

P _____

Pray in faith. Pray for each other. Pray earnestly.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Easter Sunday 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	1 Deadline for Fish Dinner Easter Monday 12:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - PNC @ Virtual	2 9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 6:30pm - NA @ FH	3 4:30pm - Mission Committee @ P 6:30pm - NA @ B	4 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P 7:30pm - NA @ FH	5 5pm - Fish and Chips Dinner @ FH, K 12:30pm - NA @ B	6 11am - Kingsley Memorial Service
7 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Worship/Music 2pm - Club Z @ B	8 12:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - PNC @ Virtual	9 9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 5:30pm - Outreach/Fellowship @ 6:30pm - NA @ FH	10 9am - GAPNS @ FH 7:30pm - Finance Committee @ P	11 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal @ S 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P	12 12:30pm - NA @ B 6pm - Friday Night Friends @ FH	13 9am - Food Pantry @ FH
14 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Deacon's Mtg. @ B	15 Tax Day 12:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - PNC @ Virtual	16 9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 6:30pm - NA @ FH	17 7pm - Session @ P	18 10am - GAPNS @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal @ S 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P	19 10am - GAPNS @ FH 12:30pm - NA @ B	20 1pm - Diva Dance @ FH, K
21 Tower Tie Articles Due 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	22 12:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - PNC @ Virtual	23 9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 6:30pm - NA @ FH	24	25 10am - My Grown-up Group @ FH 6pm - Food Pantry @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal @ S 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P	26 12:30pm - NA @ B	27 4pm - NA Event @ FH
28 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	29 12:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - PNC @ Virtual	30 9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 6:30pm - NA @ FH	1 First Day of Asian Pacific 4:30pm - Mission Committee @ P 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:15pm - GAPNS Meeting @ FH	2 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P 7:30pm - NA @ FH	3 12:30pm - NA @ B	4