

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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April 2025

From the Pastor's Desk....

From the Gospel of John, Chapter 10: Jesus said, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."

Peace and prosperity in the Promised Land was God's will for His Old Testament people. At the end of their forty years in the wilderness, Joshua was ready to lead them across the Jordan River and into a land flowing with milk and honey. And Moses reassured the people in Deuteronomy 8, The Lord your God is bringing you into a good land... where bread will not be scarce, and you will lack nothing.

Yet life in the Holy Land was filled with trials, disasters, sufferings, and griefs. Peace and prosperity were often absent in ancient Israel. And it was God Himself who sometimes sent these afflictions upon His people as He took away their peace and prosperity in order to discipline the children He so dearly loved. But by faith we understand that God truly desired peace and prosperity for them.

The same is true for us. God desires peace and prosperity for you, His Church. Luther wrote; God wants us to be cheerful. For had He wanted us to be sad, He would not have given us the sun, the moon, and the various fruits of the earth. All these He gave us for our good cheer.

Yet our lives are often filled with trials, disasters, sufferings, and griefs. God Himself sometimes sends these afflictions for our good. But by faith we understand that God desires peace and prosperity for us, His baptized children. That's why He sends us sunshine and rain. That's also why in the fullness of time He sent forth His Son to redeem us.

Jesus said, I have come that they might have life and have it to the full. Jesus wisely taught us to call God Our Father and to think of God as loving, gracious, and kind. And by His death and resurrection, our Lord Jesus Christ has opened for us the way to everlasting life in heaven. In heaven, our life will be full and abundant. Our peace and prosperity will know no end.

God Bless You All!
Pastor Todd



Have you thanked a choir member today? I hope you will! Better yet, why don't you become one?

We could certainly use new members in both adult choir and Emmaus Ringers—our wonderful handbell ensemble.

People are notoriously busy, but hopefully the stars will align and space in several crowded schedules will open up...like the parting of the Red Sea...and some of you who are reading this will come forward and enjoy a wonderful church ministry.

The entire book of Psalms—all 150 of them (regardless of which method of enumerating them you use, it works out to 150)—is a collection of sacred music. The tunes are long lost, but the texts have always been regarded as divinely inspired. They have formed the backbone of corporate Christian worship since the post-apostolic days. The church has recited these sublime sacred poems in many languages and to many different musical settings, but however they're sung or said, they comprise an encyclopedia of spirituality, not to mention psychology.

Every situation in which you might find yourself is represented, somewhere, in the psalms—sickness, health, good fortune or bad, loneliness or exultation—it's all there. Jesus quoted a psalm on the cross—Psalm 22 in the Protestant bibles—a hymn that starts in the abyss of sorrow but concludes in triumph. And where would we be without the very next psalm in the book...the 23rd Psalm?

One theologian said that we Christians sing the Psalms “in the key of Christ.” That's a beautiful thought. Though written before the time of Jesus, the Jewish people of His day loved them and sang them as an integral part of their own worship. Jesus continues and completes the revelation of God, and the Psalms continue to have the deepest meaning for all of us.

When we sing in church, often our hymns are based on the psalms, but not always; sometimes they are simply devout poems set to music. Either way, the link between our faith and its expression in music is firm and unbreakable. Come join the choir—come ring handbells—come do both!—but whatever you do, sing praises to God in “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs” (Ephesians 5:19). May God add blessings to your faithful observance and Lent and to your great joy at Easter—and see you in church!

Jonathan

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Mission Project: Children's Activity Bag

Please Help



In cooperation with the Interfaith Prison Partnership, the committee is collecting items to complete children's activity bags for when the children come to visit their Moms in prison. The completed bags will be delivered to the Bedford Hills and Taconic facilities in time for the Mother's Day visitation. A collection box will be located in the Narthex for donations. Items needed are: Crayons, colored pencils, coloring and activity books, game cards, writing tablets, tissues.

Deadline for the collection is Sunday April 27th.



What is Lent ?

**Lent is a time of sacrifice
A time for giving and sharing;
From our bountiful blessing,
With those less fortunate.**

Matthew 25: 34-40

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and your visited me."

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing?

And when was it we saw you sick or imprison and visited you?"

And the King will answer then, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me"

The Deacons Discretionary Fund needs you financial support to enable us to continue our ministry of compassion to our church and greater community.

Lent Why? Because of God's sacrifice for you!

A donation can be put in the collection plate on Sunday or you can mail it to the church at 33 Park Place, Goshen, NY 10924; Attention: Deacons

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:

*Amy Edmonson
Zach Coffee, nephew of Bill Powers
Denice Jones, Diana Bowe and Cheryl Zis' aunt
Tom Losee, who is home recovering from a spine fracture. Prayers for healing and pain elimination.
Isabella, the Kopec's granddaughter
The Family of Carolyn Reynolds
The Family of Gail Frey
The Family of Pam Hehn
Mal Stewart
The Family of Hung Luo who passed away last week.
The family of Catherine Bissinger, former work colleague of Bill Powers, who passed away.*

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS TO:

4	James Magee	22	Mary Kopec
16	Nicholas Signorelli	27	Blayne Gibbons
17	Emma Hourahan	28	Carol Hoffman
	Tom Sawyer	29	Elizabeth Sproul



HAPPY APRIL ANNIVERSARIES TO:

13 Brian and Michele Meek

*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.*



Come Join Us for the Deacons Palm Sunday Breakfast/

Coffee Hour on

April 13th



HELP SPREAD THE MULCH – APRIL 6!

We are looking for volunteers to help distribute mulch around the Church Park and beds.

All help is greatly appreciated. Many hands make quick work!

Depending on the weather, we are looking to do this on April 6 following the worship service.

Thank you and God bless,
Jody

Congratulations to Kevan and Christine Ottochian on the birth of their son, Thomas on March 5, 2025.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday – April 13 – 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service – Scotchtown Church - April 17 – 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday – First Presbyterian Church – April 18 - 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship Service – April 20 – 9:30 a.m.

Easter Lilies



If you are interested in ordering an Easter lily for the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one, **please do so by Monday, April 7.** Just fill out the form below and give it to Carolyn Keller or Carol Gabella, or place it in the offering plate. The price for each plant is \$17.50 and they can be taken home after the Easter morning service. **If you do not plan to take the plant, please indicate that on the order form so that we may pass it on to a shut-in or leave it to continue to beautify the Sanctuary for a few more Sundays.** Checks should be written to “First Presbyterian Church” with the words “Easter Lilies” in the memo.

Thank you,
Carolyn and Carol, Co- Chairs

Name: _____

Number of plants ordered: _____

Text to be printed in the bulletin



Calling All Men

We have had a great time at our last two men's breakfast gatherings. At the last meeting, we had great food, including some Irish breakfast and a lot of fun (Irish Shenanigans). We all had a great time learning about the shamrock and how Saint Patrick used it to teach the Trinity.

We would like you all to attend the next one. We will have another chance to meet soon, but we will not meet on Saturday, April 19, as that is just before Easter Sunday. Stay tuned for our next chance to get together. If you have any ideas for us to do as a group, please let us know. We are all game!

Please reach out to Jon Hourahan to get up-to-date information on our next outing and to get on the contact list. Email - hourahan13@yahoo.com.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

It is that time of year again when the Nominating Committee will be meeting and looking for Elders, Deacons, and Members at Large for the Class of 2025. If you would like to be considered, please fill out the bottom of this form and leave it in the collection plate or the office or email Jon Hourahan at hourahan13@yahoo.com.

Please remember the following:

- Deacons is a three-year term. The Deacons meet on the second Sunday of the month during Coffee Hour.
- Elders is a three-year term and meets for the Session meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Elders also meet with their respective committees once a month. The committees hope that, after accepting these honors, you will be able to attend the meetings and be supportive. It is truly an honor to serve your church.
- Member at Large is a member of the church who helps the Nominating Committee pick the new slate of Deacons and Elders for the next year's class.

Please reach out to Jon Hourahan at hourahan14@yahoo.com or 845-239-9245 if you are interested in one of these positions.

Name _____ Position interested in _____

Phone # _____

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 **fourth 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.

Organ Recitals

First Presbyterian offers free noontime organ recitals on Tuesdays from 12:15-12:45. There is ample parking, air conditioned sanctuary, and handicap accessible. Come Hear Great Music in a Great Space.

Financial Commitments

If you haven't made a financial commitment for 2025 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 2025

A message from the Treasurer: Please consider paying your **per capita assessment for 2025** to offset the more than \$7,000 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 **\$40.89 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, 2025. 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.

Call the church office (845-294-7991) for any information you need about
The Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

Habitat Walk

The Habitat Walk will be on April 27 at Mount St. Mary's. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. and the Walk at 2:00 p.m. We will meet in the church parking lot to carpool at 12:30 p.m. See Carolyn Keller for more details (845) 295-5508. Hope to see a good number of Goshen Presbyterians participating. Those walking will be asking for donations from sponsors.

Thanks for your support!

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 2025

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

Class of 2026

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

Class of 2027

**Linda Boardman
Marlene Gaynor
Bill Powers
Mal Stewart**

Clerk of Session: Felicia Van Doran

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2025

**Cecile Ayres
Dom Fontana
Carol Gabella
Jennifer Serkes**

Class of 2026

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

Class of 2027

**Bill Keller
Charles Quick
Logan Quick
Natalie Signorelli**

Moderator of Deacons: Carolyn Keller

STAFF

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

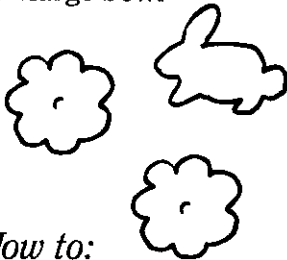
THE KID'S PAGE

Make a celebration snack!



You need:

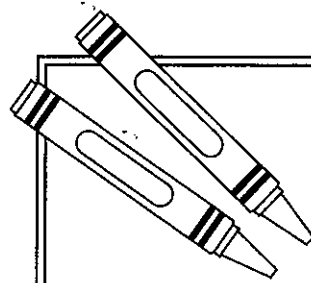
- * 4 boxes of gelatin dessert in any flavor (4-serving size)
- * Boiling water
- * 9" x 13" pan
- * Cookie cutters
- * Measuring cups
- * Spoon
- * Large bowl



How to:

Put dry gelatin in large bowl. Mix in 2½ cups of boiling water. Stir until dissolved completely. Pour into a pan. Refrigerate until firm (at least 3 hours). Cut spring & Easter shapes with cookie cutters.

Enjoy!



Just for

KIDS

Easter

Easter is a special day for Christians. The days before are dark and sad, but on that special day – we celebrate! Why do we celebrate?

Write the word to fit each definition. Transfer the numbered letters to the corresponding boxes. Read the answer.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----



14	15	16
----	----	----

17	18	19	20
----	----	----	----

great happiness

a place where plants grow

opposite of evening

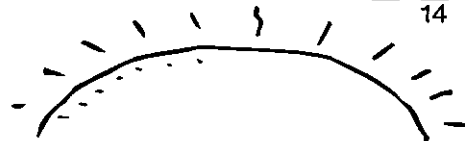
a shape that means love

it rises every morning

a close companion

Jesus was nailed to it

it blocked the door of Jesus' tomb



1 12

11 20 16

13 7 6

15 9 19

8 4

10 18 17

3 5

14 2



Jesus rose from the dead!

joy, garden, morning, heart, sun, friend, cross, stone

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ 1pm - Theater Group @	31 12:30pm - NA @ B	1 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital 6:30pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - NAMI @ B 7pm - Bible Study @	2 3:30pm - Mission 6:30pm - NA @ B	3 6pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir @ S 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	4 12:30pm - NA @ B 5:30pm - Breakfast with 10pm - NA	5 8:30am - Breakfast With
6 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ 10:30am - Deacon's Mtg. 10:30am -	7 12:30pm - NA @ B	8 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital 6:30pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - NAMI @ B 7pm - Bible Study @	9 7:30pm - Finance	10 5:30pm - 6:30pm - Bell Choir @ S 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	11 12:30pm - NA @ B 6pm - Friday Night 10pm - NA	12 9am - Food Pantry @ FH
13 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service 10:30am - Coffee Hour @	14 12:30pm - NA @ B	15 Tax Day 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital 6:30pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - NAMI @ B 7pm - Bible Study @	16	17 6:30pm - Bell Choir @ S 6:30pm - Maundy 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	18 12:30pm - NA @ B 7pm - Good Friday 10pm - NA	19
20 Easter Sunday Tower Tie Articles Due 9:30am - Worship Service 10:30am - Coffee Hour @	21 Easter Monday Office Closed 12:30pm - NA @ B	22 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital 6:30pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - NAMI @ B 7pm - Bible Study @	23 7pm - Session @ P	24 6pm - Food Pantry @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir @ S 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	25 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	26
27 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ 12pm - Habitat Walk @	28 12:30pm - NA @ B	29 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital 6:30pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - NAMI @ B 7pm - Bible Study @	30	1 6pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir @ S 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	2 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	3