

# THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the  
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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December 2024

## *From the Pastor's Desk....*

I need to say a very special thank you to everyone for the warm welcome I have been extended since coming onboard here at Goshen; so much overwhelming acceptance for myself and my wife Lauren. We are very grateful. The Christmas Season is upon us; our busy time in the church and in our personal lives. For those of us who are not really feeling jolly at this time, there will be a Blue Christmas Service at Scotchtown on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.

**1 John 3:13**, 'Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.'

Should we, as Christians be surprised from the onslaught of evil targeting of Christ, Christianity, and the Church? From the subtle to the 'in your face' demonic presentation of the Super Bowl half time shows, to the blatant blasphemy of the opening ceremonies of the 2024 Olympics and the perverted use of gender to have an advantage in the Olympics, there is no doubt to any rational person that Jesus Christ is in the crosshairs of a real devil, real demons, and people who hate Christ. So again, should we be surprised? The Bible communicates that we shouldn't be surprised. The world system and those who are in it hate God and hate the people of God.

**John 15:19**, 'If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.'

This is what they do because this is who they are. Why... why do they hate so much and why do they act out, sometimes without regard?

**1 Corinthians 2:14**, 'The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.'

**1 John 5:19**, 'We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.'

**Romans 8:7**, 'For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.'

Whether or not this is the era when Christ will return and subsequently **2 Timothy 3:13** will come into effect, '... while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being

deceived.’, understand that those who do not know Jesus and are not known by Him will hate God and His people– despite what era it is. The hate will manifest in large and vibrant ways, (such as what happened in the 2024 Olympics). But hate against Christianity will also manifest as quietly as your very moral next-door neighbor (who would give the shirt off his back) politely rejecting your invitation to talk about Christ or to go to Church.

Don’t be surprised; in fact, expect hate.

**1 John 3:13**, ‘Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.’

Receive your blessing and rejoice.

**Matthew 5:11-12**, “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.’

Even in evil times, God is sovereign.

**Psalms 22:28**, ‘For kingship belongs to the Lord, and He rules over the nations.’

Pray for the lost to be born again.

**Romans 10:1**, ‘Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.’

Love people, whether they are your enemy or a beloved family member that doesn’t know Christ– love them with the love of Jesus. This includes loving the worst of the worst.

**Luke 6:27**, “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,”

Give people the Gospel.

**Mark 16:15**, ‘And He (Jesus) said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation.”’

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4**, For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,’

Be faithful.

**1 Corinthians 4:1-2**, ‘This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.’

Until Christ returns, evil will be present in this world. But, how we respond is extremely important on so many levels. It’s incumbent upon us to remain faithful but take heart, God is ever faithful and remains sovereign.

God Bless You All!

Pastor Todd



Advent is here!

There will be NO organ recitals on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve. Our last recital for 2024 will be Tuesday, December 17 and our first for 2025 will be Tuesday, January 7.

If you would like to sing for Christmas Eve, I need to know right away. Please, no walk-ins! We have been rehearsing diligently and I can't bring you up to speed in ten minutes. No, really—I know you're good—but I can't!

Please come to the Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long on Sunday, December 15 at 3 PM in the Sanctuary. Holiday treats follow!

Lastly, the choir is singing at St. James Episcopal Church on Sunday, January 12, 2025—a benefit for Habitat. Plan to join us! Details will follow.

The music of the Advent season is rich and varied, and has grown more so, even as society moves farther and farther from the true meaning of the season. At one point there was little more than "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." In the seminary, we sang "O Come, Divine Messiah," but parishioners (of all traditions) seldom knew this delightful tune. Perhaps there was also "On Jordan's Bank," but not guaranteed.

But the spirit of Advent—a spirit of anticipation and preparation for Christmas—is reflected in many hymns of its own. "People, Look East!" is a great example. So is "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People." We are engaged with the purple-and-pink time before Christmas, and our music reflects that.

Wishing you a peaceful, joyful, and blessed Advent.

Jonathan



## **ANYONE WHO ENJOYS CAROLING**

**The First Presbyterian Church in Goshen**

**Sunday, December 15, 2024**

**Christmas Carol Sing-Along at 3:00 PM**

**Refreshments following in Fellowship Hall**

**Bring your voice and sing along or just sit and enjoy the break from your hectic holiday preparations.**

***Update from Outreach/Fellowship Committee...***

***many big events coming up at our church:***

1. The Advent Wreath event will be during coffee hour on Sunday, December 1st. People need to sign up with Carolyn Keller (845 294 5508) or Diane Church (845 294 5398). Advent wreaths are being made for congregation members' homes and some shut-ins. Each wreath will be \$25. The cut-off date for payment will be Sunday, November, 24th.
2. The Annual Holiday Fair and Quilt Show will take place on Saturday, November 23rd 9am-3pm. First Presbyterian Church in Goshen is one of four participating churches in the Holiday Fair. 22 vendors are confirmed. If anyone visits all four participating churches, they'll be entered in a raffle. 4 \$100 gift cards will be raffled off to 4 winners.
3. Breakfast with Santa event will take place on Saturday, December 7th 9am-11am. First Presbyterian Church in Goshen is opening up its doors to the community to attend. Pricing: advanced registrations are \$10 per person, children under 4 are \$5.00. Advanced registrations should be made in the church office. Walk-ins: \$12 per person and children under 4 are \$6.00.
4. Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long will take place on Saturday, December 15th at 3:00pm. Come and celebrate the season with beautiful holiday music at First Presbyterian Church in Goshen. Cookies, juice, and coffee will be provided after the event in Fellowship Hall.





## **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

- ❖ Saturday - December 7, 2024
- ❖ The First Presbyterian Church in Goshen  
33 Park Place - Goshen NY 10924
- ❖ **Open Seating** from 9:00 - 11:00 AM
- ❖ Tickets-
  - Advanced reservations: \$10.00 per person
  - Children under 4 - \$5.00
  - Walk-ins welcome: \$12.00 per person
  - Children under 4 - \$6.00

*Each child's ticket includes - A visit with Santa, pancake breakfast (which includes pancakes, sausage, fruit cocktail, coffee, tea, juice), face painting & shopping for a special gift in the North Pole Gift Shoppe for that special someone.*

***You are welcome to take your own pictures.***

*Mail reservations or stop by the church office (294-7991)  
Office hours are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday.  
For questions, reach out to Robyn Boardman (845) 649-1029*

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### **SANTA BREAKFAST RESERVATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: First Presbyterian Church - 33 Park Place- Goshen NY 10924  
Attention: ***Santa Breakfast***  
Make Checks Payable to: **First Presbyterian Church**

## **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](mailto: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:**

*Peter Capainolo, who is going through health issues.*

*Hong Luo (John)*

*Zach Coffee, nephew of Bill Powers who had unsuccessful bariatric surgery and now must wait two months before doctors can try again.*

*Judy Gastwirth, who is struggling with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma*  
*Charles Kilmer, who had neck surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC.*

*The Family of Trey Long.*

*The Family of Nancy Mason*

*Nancy Musgrave, Wendy Paffenroth's sister, who has started chemo.*

**Please Join Us On Christmas Eve**

**The service begins at 6:00 p.m.**



## **TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER**

### **HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO:**

2	<i>Joy Kissane</i>	18	<i>Jason Stewart</i>
3	<i>Fiona Keahon</i>	23	<i>Barbara Schust</i>
4	<i>Greg Sitler</i>	25	<i>Jennifer Serkes</i>
9	<i>Beryl Yungman</i>		<i>Mal Stewart</i>
12	<i>Sadie Hankins</i>	27	<i>Kevan Ottochian</i>
14	<i>Jeanette McDowell</i>		<i>Kayla Farley</i>
	<i>Ken Skyer</i>	29	<i>Geri Corey</i>
15	<i>Rachael Quick</i>	30	<i>Graham Glasse</i>
16	<i>Linda Boardman</i>		
	<i>Marilyn Velzey</i>		



### **HAPPY DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES TO:**

12	<i>Logan and Rachael Quick</i>
17	<i>Robert and Rebecca Boardman</i>
20	<i>Nicholas and Natalie Signorelli</i>
28	<i>Jon and Deb Hourahan</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.*

### ***A Note To Those Who Helped:***

The Mission Committee would like to thank all who contributed to our new mission of helping women in prison through the Interfaith Prison Partnership.

Thanks for opening your hearts to the women incarcerated in the Taconic and Bedford Hills correctional facilities. Because of your generosity, \$1027 was raised. And thanks to our church members and friends who helped assemble the gift packages at coffee hour and the Sunday school children who made such delightful gift cards.

The gifts will be a reminder to these women during the holidays that they are not forgotten but rather thought of often by many.

**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.

### **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 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



### DECEMBER 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.

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#### 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.**

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#### “Stewards of Our Garden”

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

#### **The DECEMBER and early JANUARY Steward’s Schedule:**

Bill Eustance	December 1 – December 15
George and Barbara Hankins	December 16 – December 31
Nancy Buckley	January 1 – January 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.***

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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 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**

**POINSETTIAS to adorn our Sanctuary  
ORDERING DEADLINE DECEMBER 6**

In honor of the birth of our Savior and in celebration of this glorious season, please consider helping us to decorate our Sanctuary with beautiful red, white and marbled poinsettias. They will be placed in the church for Sunday, Christmas Eve. One may take them home after the evening Christmas service on Sunday. Kindly consider ordering a plant in honor of or in memory of a special person(s) or loved ones, or simply to the Glory of God and in celebration of Christ's birth. **THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6**. All orders must be accompanied with a check. Please complete the form below and submit with your payment of \$15.99 per plant made payable to the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen (put **Poinsettias** in the memo). You may send in your order, drop it off at the office Monday – Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. or put into the collection plate on Sunday. Thank you for helping us honor Christmas with festive flowers!

**Yes, I would like to order Christmas poinsettias for the Sanctuary as follows:**

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Color</u>
_____	Red
_____	White
_____	Marbled
_____	<b>Total @ \$15.99 each = \$ _____ due</b>



Please make checks payable to the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen (put **Poinsettia** in the memo).

**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Kindly PRINT as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.)*

**To the Glory of God and:**

**In memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In celebration of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**To honor the birth of Jesus Christ:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

# THE KID'S PAGE

## Christmas Treasure from Trash

You can make pretty Christmas ornaments from old Christmas cards.

You will need:

- \* old Christmas cards
- \* scissors
- \* glue
- \* 3" or 4" circle pattern (cut from cardboard or just trace a coffee cup)
- \* hole punch
- \* yarn and ribbon
- \* glitter
- \* trims — rick-rack, ribbon, sequins, beads

How to do:

Trace the circle on two cards. Cut out and glue the backs of the cards together.

Decorate the edges of the cards with glue and glitter or scraps of ribbon.

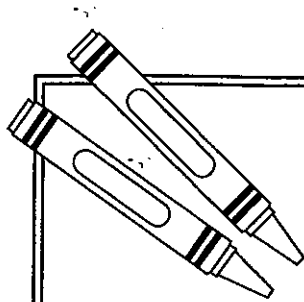
Punch a hole in the top.

Insert a piece of yarn or ribbon.

You may also make small ones for gift tags.

Just cut your circles smaller.

Leave the back white and write "To:" and "From:" on it.



## Just for KIDS

### Telling the Christmas Story

These words are all part of the Christmas story. First, find them in the puzzle below. Circle them. You may find them → ← ↖ ↗ ↘ ↙ ↑ ↓. There will be 12 letters that remain uncircled. Write them in the order found on the lines below. You will find a special Christmas message! Then use the words from the list to tell the story to someone!

- |           |              |           |          |         |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|----------|---------|
| joy       | hay          | men       | inn      | wise    |
| Lord      | star         | baby      | king     | east    |
| Mary      | gold         | angel     | taxes    | Jesus   |
| sheep     | myrrh        | three     | manger   | Savior  |
| donkey    | Caesar       | Joseph    | birthday | Messiah |
| shepherds | frankincense | Bethlehem | Augustus |         |

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

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

Answer: Peace on Earth

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Worship/Music	2 12:30pm - NA @ B	3 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Bible Study @ Zoom	4 4:30pm - Mission Committee 6:30pm - NA @ B	5 6pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	6 12:30pm - NA @ B 5pm - Santa Breakfast Set-up 10pm - NA	7 9am - Santa Breakfast @ FH 1pm - Baby Shower @ FH, K
8 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Teen Voices @ 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Deacon's Mtg. @ B	9 12:30pm - NA @ B	10 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Bible Study @ Zoom	11 7:30pm - Finance Committee	12 5:30pm - Outreach 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	13 12:30pm - NA @ B 6pm - Friday Night Friends @ 10pm - NA	14 9am - Food Pantry @ FH 12pm - Kopec Party @ FH
15 <b>Tower Tie Articles Due</b> 9:30am - Children's Pageant 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 3pm - Carol Sing-a Long @ S,	16 12:30pm - NA @ B	17 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Bible Study @ Zoom	18 7pm - Session @ P	19 6pm - Food Pantry @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	20 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	21 1pm - Diva Dance @ FH, K
22 <b>No Church School</b> 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	23 12:30pm - NA @ B	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 9:30am - Food Pantry 6pm - Christmas Eve Service 6:30pm - NA @ FH	25 <b>Christmas Day</b>	26 <b>Office Closed</b>	27 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	28
29 <b>No Church School</b> 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	30 12:30pm - NA @ B	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b> 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ FH	1 <b>New Year's Day</b> 6pm - One License wants a 6:30pm - NA @ B	2 6pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	3 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	4