

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings everyone! Well, when I wrote this, I was walking the pathways of the sick, along with many, many others. Like most of you, I hate being sick—it's not fun and it's boring. Yet, for many years now, every time I'm sick, the question a wise friend once asked me comes to my heart: "What is your body trying to tell you?" Now, if you're sick and covered with Kleenex, your first answer might be, "I have a cold and I'm sick! Duh." As my wise friend said, that's level one. If we ask the question again and listen a little more deeply, we may find ourselves reflecting on what we've been eating or not eating before we were sick; what the pace of our life has been; or what kind of stress we've felt. In other words, we might begin to discover that our self-care has been almost zilch. Or not.

But if we keep walking with this question of my wise friend, we may come to yet another set of questions and ideas (after a nap and some more Sudafed, of course). This is the place where we ask, "What is my body speaking to me about my spirit?" Here is where we begin to touch the relationship of our body with our spirit. It's interesting that this idea often causes a lot of disagreement.

We in the West have been trained to think of the body as separated from the spirit, a lesser form that we must push and shove to do what we want it to do. As a result of such thinking, we often treat our bodies with disdain or like tools, but not as a spiritual part of ourselves. But is this healthy, and is it faithful? The answer is "no" to both questions. One of our first lessons in Christian faith is a radical belief that, by the way, is the stumbling block for so many people of other faiths: God became incarnate in Jesus, the Christ. *Incarnate* means to enflesh or to be alive in the body, just as we are. If God didn't think physical bodies were of value, God never would have blessed us with them and would never have thought incarnation was a good idea. Now, if God was incarnate in Jesus, can we still say that there is no spiritual reality or connection for Jesus between his physical body and his spiritual life? Obviously, there was and is; so, too, for us.

For reasons God has chosen, the physical self is crucial to a spiritual life. It is part of God's creation, this body each of us has, which we believe will be resurrected, as was Christ's body, broken though it was. It is a blessing and a gift that allows us to unite with God in prayer, dance, song, celebration, work, silence, tears, laughter, pain, suffering, and even death. But even death isn't an end, as we know: "This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat it in remembrance of me." The body of Christ lives in us physically and spiritually.

So, if you've been traveling the pathways of the sick lately, ask yourself, "What is my body trying to tell me?" And if you are well, pray for those who are sick and ask yourself in a moment of quietness, "What is my body trying to tell me?"

In Christ's love and service,
Pastor Kingsley

FEBRUARY USHERS IN THE LENTEN SEASON

Our nation has just experienced a change in leadership, and we as a nation face seemingly insurmountable problems on all fronts. In our midst, brothers and sisters are experiencing personal setbacks as never before. We are in a time of great change and upheaval. Our ways of living and being in the world are being challenged. Fear about the future is palpable.

Yet, we still have one another to lean on. There is a church family here. Yes, we are family with all its warts, disagreements, and flare-ups, but there is also amazing care, concern, and compassion when times get tough. We are here; reach out, share your pain, and allow yourself to be nurtured through it.

Listen weekly as the choir sings words of comfort and cheer or admonishment to live a better life. The hymns we sing as a congregation can be exactly what we need at that moment. It's possible that a conversation at coffee hour will lift our spirits. Our very presence, or even a smile in passing, can be an act of kindness. For it is in community and in coming together that we draw strength from one another.

A blessing for all:

O God, in our time of trouble, never let us go. Hold us close to you; keep us safe.

May we hear the voice of the Holy Spirit whisper in our ears that we are loved, that we belong to God, and that He will never let us go.

Whatever happens in our day, may we remember this love.

Amen.

Robert Clooney
Director of the Ministry of Music

Christian Issues Class

January–March

Pastor Kingsley will be teaching *From Christ to Constantine* from Sunday, January 11 through Sunday, March 29. This class will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Bradner Room. Get a better understanding of how Christianity came to be by joining us in this enlightening class.

The Christian church has been, without a doubt, the most influential institution in the realm of religion, politics, economics, and culture from late antiquity to modern times. It didn't start out that way, however. It started in the backwaters of the Roman Empire as a small, lower to lower-middle-class group of followers of a Jewish preacher who ended up crucified as an enemy of the state. In the first century of its existence, hardly anyone knew or cared about this new movement. How did Christianity grow from such modest beginnings to an enormously influential institution?

We will look at its beginnings; we will consider Jewish-Christian relations, the early growth process, hostile reactions to the movement, divergent understandings within the faith, and the factors that led to the formation of traditional Christianity.

The first three centuries of Christianity were the most tumultuous, exciting, confusing, and effective years of the faith. You will leave this class understanding many of the dynamics that made it a world religion.

**SUPPORT OUR RECYCLING
FUNDRAISER TO RAISE FUNDS FOR
THE NICARAGUA TRIP**



Donate USED cell phones, laptops, digital cameras and video cameras,
ink jet cartridges and ipods so we can raise funds
for our trip and help protect the environment at the same time - EcoPhones Recycles up 95% of each item!

PLACE YOUR ITEMS IN THE BIN!

These donations are tax deductible - check out www.EcoPhones.com for more info OR
CONTACT: The Sproul Family (Elizabeth, Alan, Wesley and Mackenzie) 845-346-0013

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
AND
POTLUCK LUNCHEON**

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22

11:30 a.m.

In Fellowship Hall

IF YOUR LAST NAME BEGINS WITH:

- A – H: Please bring a Main Dish/Meat**
I - P: Please bring a Salad or Vegetable
Q – Z: Please bring a Dessert

**DEACONS VALENTINE'S DAY COFFEE HOUR
FEBRUARY 8**

We Love You – Pass That Love On – Help The Food Pantry

Bring a Can – Get a Kiss

Bring a Food Item – Get a Kiss

&

We will match your gift with a \$1

To the Food Pantry

(up to \$200)



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:

Vince Ahrens
Karen and Paige Brooks
Cheryl Campbell and Family
Susan Caslick
Grace Cook
Phyllis Cummings
Mary DeFreece
Joshua DePew
Steve Fischbein
Mary Fulford
The George Family
Barbara and George Hankins
Jessica
Kim
Laura
The Family of Anita McCarthy
Lisa Montalbano
Richard Nash
Amy (Thompson) Nguyen
Ann Ott
Jane Pines and Family
Robyn
Ted Sandstrom
Barbara Scott and Family
Ken Skyer and Family
Peggy Srirach
The Family of Betty Sprague
Judy Thompson
Lori Turner's friend
Kenya VanZandt
Jean Wade
Paul and Phyla Wright

Linda Almeas
Haley Buckley
Mary Carr
Brandy Charles
Ethan Cox
Richard Damiani
Bob Dennis
Everyone serving in the Military
Ben Fisher
Albert Gabella
Ann Graham
Kevin and Sara Hankins
Alan and Glynnis Jorgensen
Evelyn Kingsley
Margaretta Macica
Evelyn Mercado
Richard Mudrick and Family
Toni Neidel's mother
Patty Northrup
Amy Pemberton
Jack Richner
Dorothy Rose
Kevin Schuler
Valerie Simonian
Sandy Soons
The Smith Family
Bill and Jean Strong
Fannie and George Tietze
Jen Vitko
Isiah Warren and Family
Eugene Walters
Judy Yendall

Jefferson and Rich Billings
Sarah Burrows
Barbara Caruso
Nancy Chase
Jean Crandall
Sylvester Damiani
Amy DePew
Pat Farley
Gabby
Fran Genovese
Mary Gray Griffith
Walter Jensen
Merriebeth Kennedy
Lyndsay Krutki
Helen Matthews
Jeff Monroe
Eileen Myslinski
Robert Neil
Janet Oberg
Peter
Trudi Roach
Kevin Ross
Fred Schwarz
Sue Sitler and Family
Walter and Louise Spencer
Matthew Stewart
Braidon Thew
Brenda Travers
Kim Valentini and Family
Wendy Bynum-Wade and Family
Orra and Dale 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.)

PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT



Every year the Presbytery of the Hudson Valley charges every member church an assessment according to the current active membership. Our recorded active membership number is currently **377** and *our assessment per member* (not per family) for **2009 is \$26.42**, which is a total of **\$9,960.34** 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. Thanks for doing your share.

EXTRA MILE GIVING TREE

Our Extra Mile Giving Tree still stands in the Narthex and continues to be a great source of giving opportunity for many of our members and friends. Check out the Giving Tree located on the table by the front entrance and make your donation toward a special project of your choice. There are envelopes beneath the tree and can be used to either mail back to the church or place in the offering plate. **Thanks for you support.**

2009 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please don't forget to pick up your 2009 offering envelopes on the table in the Narthex. If you don't find a box with your name and you would like envelopes, contact Nancy Smith at 360-5082.

HELP NEEDED

The Fellowship Committee is looking for members of the congregation to be part of the committee. They meet on the second Wednesday of every month. If you are interested in being a part of this committee or if you have any questions, contact Orra Wood at 374-6611.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour hosts are needed. Please sign up on the sheet provided on the bulletin board in the lobby of Fellowship Hall.

THERE WILL BE AN ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE ON FEBRUARY 25 AT 7:00 P.M.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

It is that time of year again when the Nominating Committee will be meeting and looking for elders and deacons for the class of 2012. 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. Please remember the following: the term is for three years, the deacons meet on the first Wednesday of each month, and the elders meet for session 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.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Happy New Year and hugs from the PSM of the First Presbyterian Church! The month of December came and went so quickly that the shawl group didn't have much of a chance to meet. Many of us worked at home to keep our supplies up and ready to send a "hug" whenever it was needed. We are glad that Barbara Hankins has recovered so quickly from her surgery and are pleased to see all the wonderful shawls she produced while convalescing.

We were fortunate to receive a variety of yarns from Michaels in Middletown. We sent them a note of thanks for supporting our cause and asked them to remember us in the future. Some of the yarn was given out early in January to members who needed it.

We decided it is too difficult to meet after church services and are going to try to meet once a month on a Saturday morning for a few hours. This way, we can touch base, update the journal, go over the thank-you cards received, check our yarn supply, and see how many shawls we need to make.

If you need to give a shawl, stop by the office and Pat will direct you to the supply. There is also a box of hanging folders with all of the copies of the prayers and the meanings of the colors for you to take along with the shawl. You will also find blank folders in which you can put the prayers when you give your gift. Thanks to Darlene Bartley for organizing this. If possible, please leave a name, town, and some details of the person who received the "hug." You can leave this information with Pat, and she will see that we get it so it can be recorded in our book. This way, we can see how many shawls have been sent from our church each year.

If you need a shawl and want a specific color, you can supply us with the yarn and we will make it for you. Just give us some time. The average shawl takes approximately eighteen ounces, depending on the weight of the yarn and the size to which it is made. We are always accepting donations of yarns as well.

Again, thanks to everyone who is supporting our ministry. Remember, you are always welcome to join us. Check the bulletin for meeting dates and times.

Hugs,
Wendy Paffenroth
Journal Keeper

Please come and join us at the Prayer Shawl Ministry (PSM) get-togethers on Saturday, February 7, and Saturday, February 21. We will meet at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the parlor. Bring your crocheting things. Newcomers are more than welcome.

This is a great way to start the weekend, with fun, fellowship, the creation of something useful, and FOOD. Oh yes, we have snacks...so come out and join us.

Also, PSM is looking for donations of gift bags (not Christmas bags) in which to put our shawl gifts. We will also take packages of tissue paper. Each gift bag should be large enough to hold a folded shawl. Please give the bags to Wendy Paffenroth, Darlene Bartley, or Barbara Skyer. If you don't see these gals or anyone from the shawl ministry, please leave the bags at the church office for us. This is a great way to recycle those gift bags that are too pretty to throw out. Thanks in advance.

The Presbyterian Women Association's next meeting will be on Monday, March 9 at **7:00 p.m.** in the church parlor. All women of the church are invited to attend.

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES!

What could be more fun than spending Friday night watching a great movie and being with friends?

Have you seen *Kung Fu Panda*? Well, maybe it's time that you did. **Come to Fellowship Hall on Friday night, February 20**, to watch this hilarious movie and munch on freshly made, hot, buttery popcorn. You're welcome to bring any other favorite foods, too, or even your dinner. We'll supply the popcorn and cold drinks.

Come at 6:00 p.m. **to socialize a bit**. The movie starts at 6:30 p.m. **Make plans to come and warm up a chilly winter's evening.**

THE MUSIC MAN

The Goshen High School will be presenting the musical *The Music Man*. Darlene Bartley has reserved 25 tickets for the Saturday evening performance on March 28. Tickets are \$12 each. See Darlene to purchase your ticket.

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

February 1 – This is the date for our next game night at 7:00 p.m. The activity will depend on what the group wants to do – team building challenge, Pictionary, Apples to Apples, or whatever other game you can think of!

February 8—The youth will be going to see *Jesus Christ Superstar* at Eisenhower Hall Theatre. The tickets have been purchased. At this point, anyone else interested in going will have to obtain his or her own ticket, if any are still available.

March 29—The youth will be going to see *Hairspray* at Eisenhower Hall Theatre. The show is on a Sunday at 2:00 p.m. The ticket price is not yet available, but an e-mail will be sent to everyone on my e-mail list as soon as the tickets become available. *People will have to commit early to this since it will sell out quickly.*

Paying for tickets: We are learning as we go with ticket purchasing. *In the future, all checks for events should be made payable to Liese Boese.*

Please watch your e-mail for updates or changes to the schedule. Anyone who would like to be added to the e-mail list should e-mail Barbara Lippert at Barbaraanne62@aim.com.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Grover vonPentz</i>	14	<i>Andrea vonPentz</i>
3	<i>Katelyn Bischof</i>		<i>Doug Wade</i>
	<i>Kathleen Kingsley</i>	15	<i>Flo Fletcher</i>
4	<i>Todd Countryman</i>		<i>Patrick O'Hern</i>
	<i>Arlete Shaeffer</i>	16	<i>Cliff Bartley</i>
5	<i>Morgan Case</i>		<i>Robyn Boardman</i>
	<i>Sarah Gibbons</i>	18	<i>Dave Bryson</i>
6	<i>Daniel Esposito</i>	20	<i>Nadine Post</i>
9	<i>Ruth Masten</i>		<i>Anne Tuthill</i>
10	<i>Linda Clark</i>	21	<i>Jack Calzaretta</i>
13	<i>Alice Kwiecinski</i>		<i>Kimberly Zis</i>
		24	<i>Mackenzie Sproul</i>

HAPPY FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES TO:

9	<i>Mike and Allison Csernai</i>
14	<i>Sean and Janet Linton</i>
19	<i>Neil and Susan Thirkield</i>



If you are also celebrating a special day, we wish you much happiness.

NEW ADDRESS

Patty Northrup
Park Manor Rehabilitation and Health Care Center
121 Dunning Road
Middletown, New York 10940

OUR CHURCH HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

www.fpgoshen.org

Dom Fontana has graciously volunteered to revise and update the church's website. Check it out!

If you have something you would like him to include, contact Dom at 845-778-4330 or e-mail

dfontana@dominickfontana.com

The following is an original poem written by our own Jessica Bowe. Jess has captured in her poem the Goshen she remembers as a young child visiting her grandparents house (Andrew and Julia House) on Clarke Road and of our church of which she is a member.

Goshen
By Jess Bowe

Let's take a drive in a white minivan

where the blood came from the butterfly stitches on the top of my forehead. We can drive past the green-sided house with purple-pink hanging plants and grandkids running around a giant bush, in the rain, singing “we hate school!” We can watch them splash in the pools as they grow up and the driveway starts to fill up with their cars. While in town, we’ll walk across the long lawn of the church as the confirmation graduation wraps up in May, and the Bible school kids run toward the road with beach balls in hand. Let’s take a bus trip from a tech school where two lovers met for the very first time, and we’ll argue about whose church steeple is the tallest from the highway. Then we’ll cry and point our tires away from what used to be an old town with history in its sidewalks and familiarity in the windows of dusty yellow Victorian houses. Four hundred city homes raise up in fields meant for cow grazing and deer hunting, and not one of those newcomers will know the hidden treasures buried under their crushing foundations.

A LETTER FROM DAN CONLEY

Hey,

I went to the beach and it was good. The water was really clear and warm, but there was no sand, just coral, and coral is awful. It is really sharp. I got a few cuts on my feet and arms, but it was still nice to go swimming. The swimming area was a circle surrounded on three sides by the beach and on one side by the reef. The reef acts as protection, and it stops the waves and also keeps large animals (i.e., sharks) out.

Yesterday we went snorkeling at a different reef that we had to take a boat to. It was cool—not as nice as I thought, but it was still nice. I went to a few places in Mexico that were nicer. But it was a nice switch from language and culture classes.

The food is pretty good—stir fry, a lot of fish. But since we aren't in the village yet, the real food mysteries haven't been solved. But from what I've learned, you eat first and ask later.

It is hot and humid. And the rain is very, very strong. Last night, I thought the roof was going to cave in. At about 3:00 a.m., it just hit and woke me and the two other kids in my room immediately. It was very loud, but very short. Then the sun comes out and makes it even hotter.

The Samoan people are very nice. People wave to each other. If somebody is standing on the road and somebody drives by, no matter if they know each other or not, they wave. The children are very curious, as to be expected. Rugby is the sport here; I'm anxious to learn to play. I'll probably like it.

Samoans aren't as big as their reputation. Every once in a while, you see a huge man walking around, but for the most part, they are the same size as Americans. However, in terms of third world people, they are big. But there are a lot of smiles and hellos. Everyone wants to speak English here.

Dan

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.

ELDERS

Class of 2009

**Bruce Crandall
Bill Keller
Karen Magee
Tom McDowell
Cathy Wade
Michele White**

Class of 2010

**Loretta Richner
Scott Roper
Barbara Skyer
Doug Wade
Rob Warner
Orra Wood**

Class of 2011

**John Bruno
Linda Clark
Geri Corey
Dominick Fontana
Bill Hodges
Kathy Stringer**

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2009

**Richard Ayres
Linda Boardman
Carolyn Keller
John Knox
Denise Quinn
Ray Ruckdeschel
John Snook**

Class of 2010

**Diana Bowe
Andrea Branson- Snook
Deb Hourahan
Jon Hourahan
Lisa Montalbano
Lori Turner
Cheryl Zis**

Class of 2011

**David Castellano
Jean Crandall
Patrick Farley
Helen Gardellis
Kelly Grob
Barbara Lippert
Ken Skyer**

Moderator of Deacons:

Richard Ayres

Presbyterian Women:

Barbara von Pentz, President

STAFF

**Robert J. Clooney, Director of the Ministry of Music
Pat Schwetje, Church Secretary
Barbara Skyer, Church Treasurer
Nancy Smith, Financial Secretary**