

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

33 Park Place; Goshen, NY 10924
The Reverend David Calvin Kingsley, Pastor

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February 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate
(1 Cor. 1:19)*

Don't waste another minute.

Right now, on the porch steps of a new year, before you get too far in, go ahead and resign as manager of the universe. Offer your resignation freely before life teaches you the hard way that you're really not well suited for the job.

Who's In Charge Here?

I received such a schooling years ago when my son was quite young and still playing football. A Saturday game had been scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Around 1:30 it started raining – a nice steady ground-soaking downpour. I noted this fact to my son with calm objectivity, but inside I was elated. It looked like I'd be getting back some of my Saturday afternoon. Surely they'd be canceling his game.

But the automated message that updates field conditions and cancellations said otherwise. "Get dressed. Until we know your game is canceled we're going to assume it's not."

I was trying to teach a life-lesson, a basic principle of sportsmanship: if you belong to a team you do what the team is asked to do. If the team is on the field, then you'll be on the field. To say that my son "resisted" my teaching on this point is stating the matter mildly.

To my amazement, when we arrived at the field, games were indeed being played. The sight of this evoked further protest from my young athlete. I tried to keep teaching the team-player life principle wondering all the while why these games hadn't been called off.

Already late, we walked to the field. My son was put in as a lineman and the rain kept falling. The game continued for about five minutes – and then someone walked out and told the refs to stop. Game over. By now every young man was drenched and muddy, including mine.

Frustrated, I drove home trying to be outwardly stoic with my son, wondering inwardly about the intelligence and wisdom of whomever it was that hadn't made that decision thirty minutes sooner.

It's a character flaw, I know. But I want the world to be operated according to my own sense of judgment about what makes good sense. I want the kid at the drive-thru window to do his job like I think it ought to be done. I want the people at Time-Warner to deal with my TV problem the way I think they ought to deal with it. I want someone at the athletic fields to call the game when it starts raining, not when everyone is wet, muddy, and irritated.

Because that rarely happens, I am well acquainted with frustration: frustration at the drive-thru window, frustration with the cable company, frustration with the folks who run the football program. And sadly, I am sometimes frustrated with God.

I've got some ideas as to how the universe should operate and how my life ought to unfold. I don't have all the answers, and I'm careful not to be too demanding with the answers I think I have. But I'm a fairly intelligent person. I have a functional moral compass. I have a clear sense of what seems good and right. And when things don't work according to my understanding of good and right and reasonable, I complain.

Baffled . . . but blessed.

Paul has an important word for all of us who think we know something about how life should be and how things should work in this world. God takes delight in frustrating us; God is almost playful in talking our wisdom and showing it to be folly. God is equally reckless in doing what we think is foolish and proving it wise in ways we would have never dreamed.

You may be totally baffled as to what God is doing in your life today. There's encouragement in this: God's wisdom rarely strikes us as wise. God frustrates our intelligence, makes light of our rational good sense. That can be either frustrating or freeing. The question is whether we will we trust God and God's wisdom.

Pastor Kingsley

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2016**

THE 2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX.

Please stop and pick up yours if you haven't already done so. If you don't find a box with your name and would like envelopes, please call Bill Eustance at 845-800-0083 (cell) or 845-294-5745 (home).

PLEASE PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2016

Every year, the Presbytery of the Hudson River charges every member church an assessment according to the current active membership. Our recorded active membership is currently **354** and *our assessment per member* (not per family) *for 2016 is \$31.50*, which is a total of *\$11,151.00* to be taken from our operating budget. Please assist with this expense and write a check for your family assessment, if you haven't already done so, and either mail it to the church or place it in the Sunday offering plate. Thanks for doing your share.

FEBRUARY STARTS OUR LENTEN JOURNEY



On February 7 we remember the **Transfiguration of the Lord** in which Jesus goes to the mountaintop along with three of his apostles and begins to shine with bright rays of light. Then, the prophets Moses and Elijah appear next to him, and he speaks with them showing his disciples a glimpse of his heavenly glory. The choir will be singing, “With Wings as Eagles” centering us on the theme of being raised up.

Next, we come to **Ash Wednesday** on the 10th. It is a time to reflect upon our mortal condition and to hear those familiar words, “Remember, from dust you are and to dust you shall return.” We come with penitent hearts to receive the ashes in the shape of a cross on our foreheads reminding us of the good news of the gospel – forgiveness for all and life in Christ.

Our Lenten journey now begins. This Lent I am feeling the need to reach outward to our fellow man as we live out the teachings of Jesus the Christ in our daily lives. Our lives change as we give of ourselves in feeding the hungry, comforting the sick, and working to relieve suffering and injustice among the oppressed. In the words of St. Francis, “for it is in giving, we receive.” Our world is in dire need of peace and reconciliation. Here I offer my Lenten journey theme.

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.



O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.

Robert Clooney
Director of Ministry of Music

Join us for the **Ash Wednesday Service** on
February 10 at 7:00 p.m.

The Christian Education Committee wants you to know...

February 7 -- "Souper Sunday" is when the Sunday school will collect canned goods for the Goshen Ecumenical Food Pantry. We hope you will contribute. It's an easy date to remember because it's Super Bowl Sunday!

February 29 -- Teen Voices will participate in Midnight Run.

March 4, 5, 6 -- Teen Voices Retreat at Tuscarora

March 19 -- Remember to register for Breakfast with the Easter Bunny! (It's early this year.)

By March, the committee will be deciding if we can pull off the VBS this year. If you can help us in any way (including and especially running it for the week), please let us know by the end of February. I went into more detail last month, and a couple more people have reminded me they will reprise their roles. I thank you all, but we still need a three-person team to oversee it.

Sincerely,
BA Long



**THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION IS ON A HIATUS.
THEIR PAGE WILL APPEAR AGAIN IN THE APRIL TOWER TIE.**

THE SHOPRITE CARD FUNDRAISER IS ON GOING!



When you buy ShopRite gift cards through the church you can help fund our mission trips. The church sells gift cards at full face value, and we receive a 5% discount from ShopRite when the cards are purchased. If you buy groceries at ShopRite, PLEASE purchase gift cards from the church. If you spend \$100, the mission fund will grow by \$5. We all buy groceries so why not help fund our mission trip in the process? See me on Sundays to purchase them or stop by the church office during the week.

Any questions/please feel free to contact me.

Mark Glasse' (845)325-4439 or mpglasse@optonline.net

GOSHEN CHILI CHALLENGE

The Mission Committee is preparing for its annual exciting fundraiser, the Goshen Chili Challenge.

Scheduled for **Saturday, February 27, 2016**, the Chili Challenge will still have all of its favorite features, like plenty of chili with the fixin's—cheese, sour cream, chips, water, soda and dessert--but it 's going have a new twist.



We're hoping to stir up a "red hot, fiery" challenge among firemen from local departments—not only Goshen, but Florida, Chester, Pine Island, Montgomery, Warwick, as well.

So mark your calendars—this Chili Challenge is going to be a "scorcher!" You won't want to miss it!

(All proceeds go to PresbyBuild in Partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Newburgh)

MIDNIGHT RUN

Our next Midnight Run will take place on Saturday, February 20. It is a night run. We are in need of drivers and co-pilots. We will prep the food and fill the cars on Friday, February 19 beginning at 4:00 p.m.

We still need the following:

- 22 loaves of white bread
- 9 dozen hard boiled eggs
- 1 large pack of boneless chicken breast
 - 1 – 1 lb. bag of carrots
 - 1 bag of celery
 - 2 large onions
- 1 bag of fine egg noodles
- 4 quarts of chicken broth

Men's clothing sizes M, L, XL

Ladies clothing

Winter coats for men/women

Shoes/boots

If you can help, please let me know.
Thank you for your continued generosity.

Lori Baird, Midnight Run Coordinator
(845) 200-5640

Editor's Note: "It's More Than Houses" is another in a series of columns that appear regularly in "The Tower Tie" highlighting the mission work that takes place in our church. "Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat Newburgh brings people together to build homes, communities and hope" is the mission statement of Habitat for Humanity of Newburgh. It will be our 2016 mission trip destination June 27 -July 1. We hope you will join us.

IT'S MORE THAN HOUSES

By Sue Varden

Jeanine Jennings and her son, Jahmere, lived in a mold-infested apartment in Newburgh where the pumping leaked constantly. The single mom worried about the impact on their health, but when she petitioned the landlord to make improvements in the apartment, she was served with eviction papers. Then homeless, they lived in a motel, trying to get by.

"In our darkest moment, when we were homeless and Jahmere was facing being held back in school, Habitat gave us hope," Jeanine said. "I don't know where Jahmere would be today if we hadn't found Habitat Newburgh."

In 2012 Jeanine applied to be a Habitat partner family. She worked hard but had a low-paying job which made her eligible for the Habitat program. She attended Habitat homeownership classes and completed her 250 sweat equity hours working on a Habitat construction site alongside volunteers and other partner family members. At the conclusion, she was able to purchase a home for herself and her son.

"I'll never forget how I felt on the day we moved in. For the first time ever, I saw a sense of relief in Jahmere, knowing that this devastating period in our lives was finally over. Knowing that we would have a table to sit around for dinner, a place to do homework and talk about Jahmere's future, and a place to build a life and make memories. A place where we were safe."

There are many stories like that of the Jennings. The City of Newburgh is designated as the most distressed urban area in New York State, and its shortage of livable housing has created worst-case scenarios for thousands of hard-working families.

To date, Habitat Newburgh has built 78 houses and accepted over 90 families into its homeownership program. All combined, the new home owners contribute over \$375,000 annually to the city and school tax rolls. Habitat homes have restored more than \$7 million to the City's assessed property values and are a driving force in the revitalization of Newburgh.

Habitat for Humanity is one of the most recognizable and well-respected nonprofit organizations in the world. It has witnessed first-hand the results of having a place where children can thrive, self-esteem grows, and families can bond. Its work helps stabilize and revitalize neighborhoods, which often see a reduction in crime and an increase in the quality of life of the community.

DINNER CLUB AT CATHERINE'S RESTAURANT

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US
FOR DINNER AT CATHERINE'S
153 West Main Street
Goshen, New York**

Friday, February 19, 2016

5:00 p.m.

\$30.00 per person includes tax and gratuity

Cash bar

APPETIZER:

Catherine's Mixed Green Salad

CHOICE OF ENTRÉE:

Filet Mignon Bolognese with peas and mozzarella

Crispy Chicken topped with roasted red peppers and mozzarella.

Served with wild mushroom and pea risotto

Short Rib Stroganoff with wild mushrooms and peas
over pappardelle pasta

Cedar Plank Salmon with brown rice,
vegetable medley and dill sauce

DESSERT:

Godiva Chocolate Mousse Cake

Coffee or tea

Contact Linda Clark (294-7488) or Jo Wolfe (294-6652)
for reservations.

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

WHEN: SATURDAY, March 19, 2016

TIME: 8:30 - 10:00 A.M. OR 10:00 - 11:30A.M.

WHERE: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GOSHEN

COST: \$8.00 PER PERSON, PAID IN ADVANCE



Included in the price of each paying child's reservation will be tickets for crafts, games, and activities (for children of all ages), and an egg hunt.

The Easter Bunny will be on hand to greet everyone.

**BRING YOUR CAMERA TO CATCH THAT SPECIAL MOMENT ON THE
EASTER BUNNY'S LAP!**

LIMITED SEATING; DON'T DELAY!!

Reservations accepted in the church office through March 13.

Questions? Call 665-9545 or 294-7991

RESERVATION FORM for "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny"

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Preferred Seating Time

on **Saturday, March 19** _____ 8:30 to 10:00 **OR** _____ 10:00 to 11:30

Number of adults
and older children _____

Number **AND AGES** of children participating
in breakfast and activities _____

(Activities include an egg hunt. Please bring your own baskets.)

TOTAL NUMBER X \$8.00 COST PER PERSON = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church, 33 Park Place, Goshen, NY 10924.

Forms and checks can be dropped off at the church office.

TEEN VOICES

Meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 9:30 am
in
Teen/High School Meeting Room
(Just follow the signs)

We have begun exploring how prayer can help us grow and ground us in our faith and in our daily lives. We are looking at different ways to pray that reach our individual personalities, whether through traditional prayer, music, art, meditation, etc.

Midnight Run

Teens ages 14 and older are able to join us on the Midnight Run FPG has scheduled for February 20th. This can be an impactful experience for a teen as he or she serves the homeless and needy of Manhattan. This is a late night Midnight Run and we expect to be out from about 7pm until 2am. Any teen in this age group that is interested in joining us should let us know as soon as possible so that we can make sure we have enough chaperones. Since we will be out so late, we will not be doing a Teen Voices class the following day.

Teen Retreat to Tuscarora

Teen Voices (grades 7 to 12) will be going on a weekend Christian Youth Retreat to Tuscarora Conference Center in Bethel, Pennsylvania, Friday, March 4th to Sunday March 6th. We attended this retreat last year and the teens enjoyed the fun and spirit-filled experience. We will meet up with the teens from Paty and Mark's old church, Olivet Presbyterian Church in Staten Island. They have been making this annual retreat for decades. There is a charge for attending the retreat which covers the cost of the rooms and food (approximately \$130 per person). If any teen wants to attend but needs some financial assistance, please let Paty, Mark or Pastor Kingsley know. Let us know as soon as possible if you plan to join us.

Paty and Mark Glasse'

845-986-1460

mpglasse@optonline.net

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER



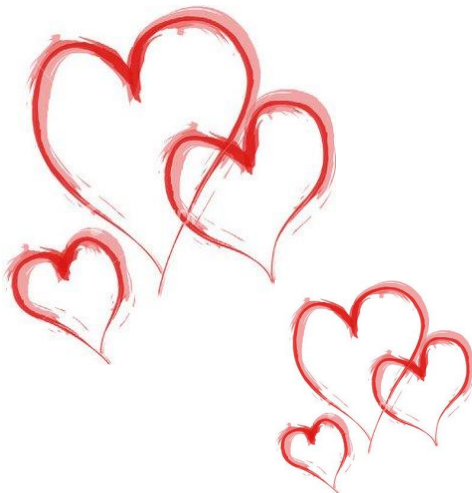
HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Danielle Puelzl</i>	13	<i>Alice Kwiecinski</i>
	<i>Grover vonPentz</i>	14	<i>Laura Colacci</i>
3	<i>Kathleen Kingsley</i>		<i>Andrea vonPentz</i>
4	<i>Todd Countryman</i>		<i>Doug Wade</i>
	<i>Garfield Clark</i>	15	<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>Dan Esposito</i>	20	<i>Beth Phelan</i>
	<i>Anne Lavell</i>		<i>Anne Tuthill</i>
10	<i>Linda Clark</i>	21	<i>Jack Calzaretta</i>
12	<i>Jude Monteleone</i>		<i>Kimberly Zis</i>
	<i>Jo Wolfe</i>	24	<i>Mackenzie Sproul</i>
			<i>Amber Countryman</i>

HAPPY FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES TO:

9	<i>Mike and Allison Csernai</i>
14	<i>Sean and Janet Linton</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.



YOU ARE INVITED!

Deacons' Valentine's Day Coffee Hour

Sunday, Feb. 14 - After church services

Come get a kiss and some wonderful treats



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

Ed Berry

Susie Bohling

Jean Chang

David Crandall

Sally Dorritie

Evie and Family

Norm and Sharon Frelinger

Barbara and George Hankins

Andy Hine

Bob and Maureen Johnson

Carolyn Keller and Family

Brenda Kujawski

Kelly Magee Thrush

Andy Marussich

Jeff Monroe

Richard Montalbano

Eileen Myslinski

Nick K.

Dave and Wendy Paffenroth

Rachel Reeves

Fred Schwarz

Sandy Shores

David Paul Spradlin

Elmer Stevens

Gary Swinger

Butch Turley

Kenya VanZandt

Doris Weinberger

Sandra Wood

Phyla Wright

Lori Baird

Ann (Strong) Blake

Aryanna Brahs

Sharon Conlon

Suzanne DeBlock

David Dzierzek

Mary Lee Farris' sister

Kate Goodspeed

Judy Feragola (Hankins)

Carol Hoffman

Susan Johnson

Laura and Tom Kennedy

Betty and Robert Lobb

Gavin Martin

The McCloud Family

Joseph Montalbano

Jude Monteleone

Richard Nash

Amy (Thompson) Nguyen

Velma Peters

Tim Richardson

Bryan Scott and Family

Matt Skyer and Family

Jackson Spradlin

The Family of Jean Strong

Suzanne Thomas

Kim Valentini and Family

Rebecca Vives

Jo Wolfe

Orra Wood

Vicki Yost

Rosa B.

Sarah Bohling

Mary Carr

Bruce and Jean Crandall

Joe Destefano

Everyone serving in the Military

Ben Fisher

Dorothy Gott

Kevin and Sara Hankins

Bill Howell

Rosemary Joy

Jeff Knox

James Magee

Riley Martin

Evelyn Mercado

Lisa Montalbano

Jean Musgrave

Nina and Jason

Alice Paffenroth

William John Pink

Tom Sawyer

Dorothy Sevcik

The Smith Family

Peggy Srirach

The Family of Jean Stukey

Christopher Tucker

Cindy Vanderplatt

The Wade Family

Anne Wood's brother-in-law

Sharon Worden

(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.)

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

FEBRUARY UPDATE

Memorial Pavers

To order a memorial paver to honor or remember a loved one, please see Pat in the church office. The cost of each paver is only \$100.

11 Niches Remain for Purchase in the Memorial Columbarium

Each niche allows for double or single interment with four purchase options:

Payment in Full = \$2,500

12-Month Payment Option = \$250 / month for 12 months (\$3,000)

24-Month Payment Option = \$130 / month for 24 months (\$3,120)

36-Month Payment Option = \$ 90 / month for 36 months (\$3,240)

“Stewards of Our Garden”

Thank you to our dedicated Stewards for keeping the garden neat!

The FEBRUARY and early MARCH Steward's Schedule:

Beryl Yungman and Karen Bende:	February 1 – February 15
Barbara and George Hankins:	February 16 – February 29
Bill Eustance, Jenn and Gregg Piller:	March 1 – March 15

It takes only a few minutes of your time to pick up any litter, pull a weed, or sweep a few pavers clean, and you can help keep our garden beautiful! Contact Pat in the church office to sign up.

Call the church office (845-294-7991), Rev. Kingsley, or Wayne George (914-213-4093)
For any information you may 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 2016

**Cliff Bartley
Geri Corey
John Redman
Tom Sawyer
Mal Stewart
Jo Wolfe**

Class of 2017

**Robert Johnson
Robin Knoblock
Karen Magee
Anne Tuthill
Grover vonPentz
Rob Warner**

Class of 2018

**Kathleen Alevras
Mark Glasse
Bill Hodges
Elizabeth Long
Scott Roper
Orra Wood**

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

Class of 2016

**Wendy Donohue
Bill Eustance
Carol Gabella
Gina Gruber
John Gruber
Carolyn Keller
Lisa Montalbano**

Class of 2017

**Diana Bowe
Diane Church
Lori Kilmer
Mary Kingsley
Charlie vonPentz
Nancy Warner
Cheryl Zis**

Class of 2018

**Lori Baird
Laura Colacci
Paty Glasse
Tina McCloud
Gregg Piller
Jenn Piller
Hannah Warner**

Co-Moderators of Deacons: Carolyn Keller and Carol Gabella

Presbyterian Women:

STAFF

**Robert Clooney, Director of the Ministry of Music
Pat Schwetje, Church Secretary
Deb Hourahan, Church Treasurer
Richard Paulus, Financial Secretary
Anne Wood, CLP – Mission Pastor to Sullivan County**