

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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

Telephone: (845) 294-7991; fax: (845) 615-1239
email: fpgoshen@frontiernet.net

Jonathan B. Hall, Minister of Music
Patricia Schwetje, Church Secretary

Web Page: www.fpgoshen.org

February 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Son, that whoever believes in Him might not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

Between his infancy and the age of 30, the Bible describes only one event in Jesus' life. We are told that it was His family's custom to attend the Passover festival in Jerusalem. The distance between Nazareth and Jerusalem was about 70 miles and would have taken several days. But the journey was probably a happy annual pilgrimage in the company of many family and friends. In his 12th year, Jesus was so preoccupied by activities in the temple that he missed the family's departure when they left for home. He remained instead in the temple where the teachers were astonished at his knowledge.

Twenty years later, the temple would become a very dangerous place for Jesus. It had ceased to be his Father's House of Prayer having become instead, a massive money machine. The conflicts that Jesus had there had a lot to do with his eventual trial and crucifixion.

President-elect Trump recently invited a number of leaders from the technology industry to a roundtable conversation. During his campaign, Trump had been vocally critical of the technology industry on a number of fronts. Tim Cook, head of Apple, accepted the invitation even though many criticized him for it. He responded by saying, "I've never found being on the sidelines a successful place to be. The way that you influence these issues is to be in the arena... and we engage when we agree and when we disagree...you don't change things by just yelling. You change things by showing why your way is the best."

That was certainly Jesus' philosophy. He didn't just stand outside the temple yelling. He went right on in to show that his way was the better way. It did, of course, cost him his life, but in the end, the loss of his life has given us life.

Richard Rohr says that it is always a lot easier being over and against than being in love. It is tempting to believe that we have done something constructive and creative by simply being critical. But Jesus teaches us that if you want to really make a difference, you've got to engage at the level of love. That's why the summary phrase of the Christian faith is this:

For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Son, that whoever believes in Him might not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

Pastor Kingsley



As we look ahead to Lent and Easter, I find myself busy with many things. One of them, of course, is planning music for the greatest solemnities of the Christian year...but there are so many other things as well.

The choir is truly a wonderful community—I love working with every single one of them. Please consider joining the ministry of music in the coming year. High school and up are welcome—teens should have parents or guardians speak with me. And please—thank a choir member sometime soon!

Music for our young people is also on the horizon. I had a great time at the Christmas pageant and hope to be involved in future programs for our young people.

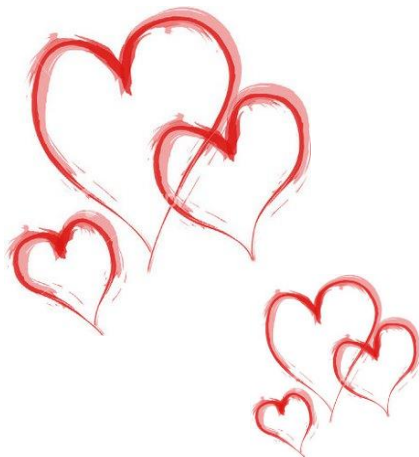
The handbells are undergoing repair as I write this, and I have high hopes of reconvening our handbell choir soon. Whether you are a veteran or a novice, you are welcome to ring with us! Handbell playing is a fun way to make gorgeous music and have a great experience of community.

Much-needed repairs to the organ are being prioritized and some will hopefully be executed soon. The organ needs a long-term program of restoration and conservancy. I will hope to share this information with you in the near future.

I hope to present an organ recital during the spring, after Easter. Stay tuned! I also hope to be in attendance during the Great American Weekend to demonstrate our instrument to visitors.

As Johann Sebastian Bach often wrote in his manuscripts, Soli Deo Gloria—to God alone be the glory. Amen!

Jonathan Hall, Director of Music.



YOU ARE INVITED!
Deacons' Valentine's Day Coffee Hour
Sunday, February 12 – After the church service
Come get a kiss and some wonderful treats!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

As we begin our 10th year we would like to thank everyone who has supported us in this decade. Many gifts have gone out to those needing a boost, a hug, or just to know someone cares. We continue to accept donations of yarn. If you donate yarn, we would love to know that you did. Leave us a note or let one of the ladies know so we can thank you.

Gift bags are also welcomed, large enough to hold a shawl or even a lap robe alone with tissue paper. This makes our gift look lovely when presented.

December saw a lot of gifts given out, and January has also had a surge of people needing our works of art. We again thank everyone who crochets or knits, although our ranks have gone down some in the past few years.

Classes and get togethers to learn using yarn will be meeting in Fellowship Hall. Check the bulletin for the date and time.

Again, thank you for the support for this “outreach” from the church. Please consider joining us and spreading some joy.

Wendy Lee Paffenroth – PSM Correspondent



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION

Our ladies decided not to meet in January, but will resume our monthly get together on Monday, February 6, 2017 around 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor. We invite all the ladies in the church to come out, join us, and help as we plan for the year. We will be first planning the World Day of Prayer held on the first Friday of March. We also will be hosting a reception after the service for our guests and will need help with the kitchen detail. Please consider helping your church sisters out.

We will also have a calendar of our meetings and things we are doing this year. If there is anything you want to put on the ladies’ calendar, see Wendy Paffenroth with the details.

Thank you – Have a wonderful Valentine’s Day.

God bless,

Wendy Lee Paffenroth - Secretary PW



SHARE PAGE

If you have something you want to share -- a recipe, poem, prayer, or something that touched your heart, email me by the 15th of the month, and we will try to get it into the next newsletter. Email me at: wendypaffenroth@gmail.com Thank you, Wendy

THE TABLECLOTH

A beautiful story . . . makes you understand that things happen for a reason.

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc., and on December 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On December 19 a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm - hit the area and lasted for two days. On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high. The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home.

On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity, so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory-colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church. By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later.

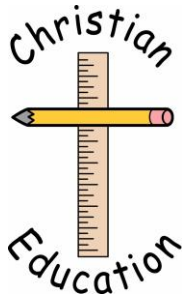
She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area. Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials 'EBG' were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she handmade this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria. The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten "The Tablecloth." The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison and she never saw her husband or her home again. The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home. That was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job. What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great.

At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike.

He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again in all the 35 years between. The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door, and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

(A true story submitted by Pastor Rob Reid who says God does work in mysterious ways.)

The Christian Education Committee would like you to know –



The committee (especially Amy) has put together a nice, long list of activities for our younger (K thru 6th grade) students to enjoy. We think maybe a **bowling outing** this March, either the 19th or the 26th, eating lunch at coffee hour and leaving right from there. Then perhaps another outing in May--again right from lunch at coffee hour.

We plan to collect canned goods on **Souper Bowl Sunday**, February 5th, to help out the Goshen Ecumenical Food Pantry. Please remember to bring a few items in. There will be baskets in the narthex (back of the church) and the Fellowship Hall lobby.

Sunday, March 5th, will be **Stone Soup Sunday** when the Sunday school students all contribute different ingredients to be made into a delicious soup that can feed everyone. The point they are learning from the curriculum is that sharing our small contributions can benefit us all. Amy and Dom Fontana will make the soup. Our job is to bring ingredients to the kitchen before church begins, so it cooks while we are in church. The congregation is asked to bring desserts for coffee hour and there will be a small fee at coffee hour to cover the broth base. This is a fundraiser for Christian Ed. trips.

The **Bunny Breakfast** is April 1st this year. There will be two seatings for breakfast--pancakes and sausage, crafts to make, and the Easter Egg Hunt! Dress up so you can take some pictures with the Easter Bunny!

May 14th, **Mothers Day**, the third graders will be presented with Bibles.

June 11th will be the last day of Sunday school this year with a presentation during the church service and a fun coffee hour.

We hope to have a VBS this year! There is a brainstorming meeting on Wednesday evening, February 8th, at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please consider contributing your ideas to this effort! Call BA Long with any questions at 343-7571.



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



PLEASE SAVE BOX TOPS FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES

If you do not already save your box tops for anyone, I would appreciate you saving them for me to give to my niece who is trying to get much-needed supplies for her kindergarten classroom in Liberty, or to treat them to an educational program. The box tops can be found on many foods and household supplies such as Progresso soups, Betty Crocker products, Scott paper towels, General Mills cereals, etc. I also will take Campbell soup labels.

I have a box for collection in the back of church by the yarn basket, or you can hand them to me in church.

Thanks so much! Carol Gabella

PLEASE PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2017

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 **357** and **our assessment per member** (not per family) **for 2017 is \$34.10**, which is a total of **\$12,173.70** 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.

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>Kat Kingsley</i>		<i>Andrea von Pentz</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>Jo Wolfe</i>		<i>Kimberly Zis</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.

Teen Voices

Thank you all for your support for our Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser in January!
We raised over \$500.

A special thank you to Robyn Boardman for coordinating this event!

A Thought for Next Year's Breakfast with Santa...

You'll notice all Christmas items in the stores are drastically reduced.
If you could pick up ribbon, wrapping paper, etc. it would be greatly appreciated!
You can leave it with Pat in the office.

Thank you,
Kathy Stringer



A Fresh Look at Coffee Hour

The first Sunday of each month is the "**Congregation Coffee Hour.**" The congregation will provide the food and your friends on the Fellowship Committee will be there to help set-up and clean-up.

Other Sundays are "**Casual Coffee Hour.**" It can be as simple as a few boxes of donuts, plates of cookies, coffee and juice. Many members of longstanding recall this being done in the past and have asked for a return to this offering. When you sign up for the first time, we will email you directions and ensure a person from our committee will help you. We even have simple directions posted on the kitchen bulletin board.

Hosts are needed: fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, grandparents and grandchildren!

Won't you sign up as host for a day with your family, friends, pew friends, or committee members to help continue this great tradition?

Your friends on the Fellowship Committee have a lot of fun and are committed to keeping our church flowing with good times. Want to join us? Have a question or idea, let us know!

THANK YOU!

Your fellowship friends,

Chairman: Robin Knoblock, Co Chair: Brad McLeland, Linda Clark, Maureen Johnson, Jane Geyer,
Dom Fontana, Jo Wolfe, Felicia Van Doran, Pam Pylant and Mary Kopec



MIDNIGHT RUN

It's time to start thinking about our next Midnight Run scheduled for March 11. It will be another evening run; we'll pack the vehicles around 7:30 p.m., leave Goshen by 8:30 p.m., and return somewhere between 2:00 and 3:00 a.m. If you haven't gone on a run before, I can personally vouch for the incredible feeling of providing food and clothing for people who have so little. It is also quite sobering to realize that many of those folks aren't much different than any of us and that "there but for the Grace of God, go I." Even though we are ensconced in the bucolic environment of Goshen, most of us could find ourselves on the street with any series of unplanned events--a loss of job, a catastrophic illness, fire or natural disaster. We are lucky. BECAUSE we live in Goshen, we have a community and a church family that would come to our aid to prevent us from resorting to the streets. The people we serve through Midnight Run aren't as lucky. Participating in any way will help us keep our Midnight Run efforts going strong.

There are many jobs coming up in February. Our March 11 run will distribute light winter/early spring clothes. Pants, lightweight shirts, lightweight jackets, etc. Sturdy shoes, sneakers, and new underwear would also be very helpful. As you begin cleaning out your closets for the next season, please consider donating to the Midnight Run. You can leave at the church office or contact me directly to make arrangements for pick up or drop off.

We will be resorting all of the current inventory of clothes, toiletries, etc. during February. I have purchased a few new tubs; anyone who has extra storage bins (the large Rubbermaid or similar clear tubs are great) or would like to purchase a few for us, it would be greatly appreciated. Much of the work that goes into preparing for a run involves sorting and resorting after and before each run. Our goal is to create an inventory by gender/season and size so that we can easily add new donations to our inventory and pull out what we need for each consecutive run. We can also use more shelving in our GOVAC space; we spend a lot of wasted time trying to move bags and tubs around to find the appropriate clothing for each run. Anyone who could help us with that would be greatly appreciated.

There is always a need for food donations as we get closer to the March 11 date. We will need hard boiled eggs, peanut butter and jelly, bread, cold cuts, granola bars, and more. Anyone inclined to donate food or \$\$\$\$\$, please let me know and I'll give you specifics. The itemized list will be in the bulletins throughout February.

Thanks in advance to all the wonderful people in our church and throughout the region who have stepped up to help in this effort in the past and to those who will join us going forward. Please remember that we have many opportunities for your kids to get community service hours by helping this cause.

God bless,
Wendy Bynum-Wade
Midnight Run Coordinator
First Presbyterian Church in Goshen
wendybynumwade@gmail.com
845-629-4324 (text 24/7)





SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

BEST SPAGHETTI DINNER IN TOWN!

It's time to start salivating for the best sauce and best spaghetti dinner in town. The Deacons' annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, March 25 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Tickets are only \$10 per person (\$5 for under 12 years of age). Each ticket includes spaghetti, salad, dessert and beverage(s). Funds raised will be used for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund which helps members of the congregation and community who find themselves in an emergency. It will be a wonderful evening, so mark it on your calendar now!

COMMUNITY DINNER

The next community dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 11 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The Outreach Committee has revised the guidelines for all groups hosting these dinners so that everyone will continue to have an enjoyable and fulfilling meal. All groups will now plan to provide for up to 45 individuals (that will cover the volunteers as well as seconds) and serve dinner from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. No seconds will be distributed until all have been served and not before 6:30 p.m. We hope that these minor revisions will prevent any misunderstandings when people come after 5:30 p.m. or so that the hosting group doesn't run out of food before it's even scheduled to start. Anyone wanting to have their organization, committee or a group of friends to host one of our monthly community dinners, please contact Darlene Bartley at bartley51@yahoo.com The First Presbyterian Church in Goshen hosts community dinners on the second Saturday of each month.

MISSION

A group of hearty souls spent a recent Saturday morning in Newburgh working on the latest Habitat for Humanity project. Mission Chairperson Adam Boese remarked that "one of the best things was that we got to work in a heated garage space." In coming months, the temperature should be a little more cooperative. Habitat has requested that we send smaller work parties (maximum of 8) so that they are not overwhelmed. Anyone interested in joining the Mission Committee for a future work date, please let Adam Boese know or leave word for him in the church office.

aboese@daylightsavings.us



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:

Ron and Kathy Alevras

Sam Boese

Hannah Boorse

Mike and Allison Csernai

Sharon Conlon

John DeGroat

Mary Lee Farris and her sister

Matthew Gould

Kevin and Sara Hankins

Susan Johnson

The Kingsley Family

James Magee

Diana, Riley, and Gavin Martin

Evelyn Mercado

Amy (Thompson) Nguye

Josephine Pecoraro

Maritya Reyes

Peggy Srirach

Gary Swinger

The Wade Family

Anne Wood's brother-in-law Dennis

Phyla Wright

Ed Berry

Sarah Bohling

Tommy, Amy, and Makayla Brahs

Tyler Csernai

Bruce and Jean Crandall

Ian Depew

Judy Fazio

Mary Gray Griffith

Edith Hausmann

Rosemary Joy

Jeff Kott and Wendy Henson-Kott

Karen Magee

Nancy Mason

Richard Montalbano

Dean Oberg

William John Pink

Tom Sawyer

Elmer Stevens

Christopher Tucker

Doris Weinberger

Sandra Wood

Vicki Yost

Ann (Strong) Blake

Susie Bohling

John Burleson

Laura Colacci

Suzanne DeBlock

Everyone serving in the Military

Esther Glasse

Barbara and George Hankins

Andy Hine

Laura and Tom Kennedy

Brenda Kujawski

Kelly Magee Thrush

The McCloud Family

Eileen Myslinski

Dave and Wendy Paffenroth

Rachel Reeves

Gary Smith

Virginia Stubenrauch

Cindy Vanderplaat

Jo Wolfe

Orra 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.)

Join us for the **Ash Wednesday Service** on
March 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

FEBRUARY UPDATE

Memorial Pavers

Place your orders for a memorial paver to honor or remember a loved one. Five NEW paver orders have been placed. We will order engraving after we have ten orders on hand.

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.

8 Niches Remain Available 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”

Special thanks to our dedicated Stewards for keeping the garden neat!

The FEBRUARY and early MARCH Steward’s Schedule:

Beryl Yungman:

February 1 – February 14

Barbara and George Hankins:

February 15 – February 28

Bill Eustance, Jen and Gregg Piller

March 1 – March 15

Anyone can be a Steward of Our Garden any day of the week! 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 too can help keep our garden beautiful! Contact Pat in the church office to sign up and be added to our schedule.

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 2017

**Darlene Bartley
Deborah Hourahan
Robin Knoblock
Karen Magee
Grover vonPentz
Rob Warner**

Class of 2018

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

Class of 2019

**Adam Boese
William Eustance
Brad McLeland
Brian Meek
Thomas Sawyer
Malcolm Stewart**

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2017

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

Class of 2018

**Wendy Bynum-Wade
Laura Colacci
Ian Depew
Wendy Donohue
Paty Glasse
Gregg Piller
Jenn Piller**

Class of 2019

**Liese Boese
Margaret Dickover
Jon Hourahan
Carolyn Keller
Jody Kopec
Logan Quick
Felicia Van Doran**

**Moderator of Deacons: Carolyn Keller
Presbyterian Women:**

STAFF

**Jonathan Hall, Minister of Music
Patricia Schwetje, Church Secretary
Deborah Hourahan, Church Treasurer
Anne Wood, CLP – Mission Pastor to Sullivan County**