

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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February 2025

From the Pastor's Desk....

To be alive is to live the love of Jesus! Love is the heartbeat that pumps life throughout the church. A church that isn't loving isn't alive. People of God, we are alive! We are living the love of Jesus! In the short time I have served with you in God's mission here, I have seen the love of Jesus alive in you; as you faithfully pray for those in your lives and in the world who need love in their life; as you gather to be filled with Jesus' love through the gift of his body and blood and grow through learning opportunities; as you have named your fears and honored your hopes for your life, for our church, and for the world; as you have welcomed new people to your faith family and continue to care for each other in love; and as you have gathered angel tree gifts and blessing bags to give away the love of Jesus to others. It is evident that we are alive and filled with the love of Jesus not only for those within our family of faith but those outside of it.

There is excitement and positive energy about the possibilities of the future as we continue living in the love of Jesus! Thank you for your faithfulness, for the ways you live in love, for the ways you support the ministries of FPC Goshen that spread this love to those who are most in need of receiving it. We would not be alive without each other nor without the love of God flowing in us and through us. Let's continue to focus on the ways that we are alive, that we Live the Love, that God is at work in and through us. Let's commit to each other and to God to remain invested in living in love.

Part of that investment involves us showing up to receive what we need for life - to be fed and nourished by God in worship and fellowship so that God's love can flow into us. Part of that investment involves us giving what God has first given us - sharing our gifts and abilities in the life of the congregation and supporting the ministries through financial gifts that not only give life to First Presbyterian Church, but in combination with the gifts of other churches, give life to the whole world. Part of that investment involves us making time to grow in faith-to learn more about whom we are as God's beloved people and how God wants us to share that love with others, through discipleship and outreach opportunities.

To be alive is to live the love of Jesus! Show up to receive, give what God has given you, and Grow in Faith!

Please keep my wife, Lauren in prayer as she has hip replacement this month.
Thanks. Happy Valentine's Day.

God Bless You All!
Pastor Todd



I write this shortly after the Twelfth Night program at St. James Episcopal Church, across the street from First Presbyterian. The much-loved annual program was shut down in 2021, and when finally revived in 2024, of course the weather got in the way. So this was the first time since early 2020 that the popular Habitat for Humanity program, long called “Episco-Build,” could be held again. (All the denominations are now under the umbrella of “Faith Build,” including our own

Presby-Build.)

My first-ever visit to Goshen was in 2009 for that year’s Twelfth Night Episco-Build. At the time, I was Organist and Choirmaster of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Cornwall. I remember the evening very clearly--especially that big church across the street, with its impressive steeple!

The event was obviously a high point of the holiday season for everyone who attended. There was a great deal of joy in the air—many reunions, happy memories shared, new experiences had and new friends found. Our own choir did itself proud with a Christmas choral piece, and Bill’s saxophone playing was a huge hit as always.

Meanwhile, our own pipe organ needs tuning and maintenance—this is normal, nothing to do with the big project that culminated in 2022 with the new wiring, new console and new Great Mixture (a bright stop that adds brilliance and color to the organ). This time, there’s leather to be redone, and a sprinkling of pipes that don’t speak. Annoying, but pretty routine.

As we move into Lent on March 5, we keep up the pace with regular handbell and choir rehearsals and get ready for a glorious Easter. New members are definitely welcome. Come on—the church is growing! It’s time that all this wonderful new life should yield a few new musicians!

The world wants us to worry that we’re “missing out,” but are we, and on what? The local community is really where it all happens. And God is everywhere, but especially *right here...wherever right here* may be. So join us for rehearsals on Thursday evenings and joyful ministry on Sunday mornings—as the old hymn puts it, “lest we miss Thy kingdom’s goal.”

Tuesday organ recitals continue! Thanks to your donations at these programs, the recital series is able to fund purchases of new choral and handbell music. Except for public-domain music, it’s wrong to build a music ministry on photocopies! You should be proud that the community is supporting a basic and practical form of justice at First Presbyterian. Plus, it’s great to keep the music fresh and exciting. Thank you!

Jonathan

Annual Congregational Meeting—February 23 — Following Worship

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen has called an Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following the 9:30am worship on Sunday, February 23, 2025 for the purpose of receiving reports of the various church boards and committees.

Annual Reports

The 2024 Annual Reports will be available to pick up in the Narthex on Sunday, February 16.

Prayer Chain

It is vital for any congregation to be in prayer for the church and for individuals affiliated with the church who have a need for God's intervention in some way. This is why churches such as ours have prayer chains. But the prayer requests must stay current if individuals are to be asked to pray for everyone on the list. We have changed the way we update the prayer chain. Once a request has been made for a member of the church, a friend, a neighbor, a family member, etc. to be met with prayer, that name will remain on the prayer chain list for 2 months. If you want continued prayers for another 2 months, please contact the church office to make that request. Use the church email address fpgoshen@gmail.com or phone the office with your request at 845-294-7991.



PRAYER CHAIN

The following members or friends are going through a time in which they have asked for prayer by the church. Please keep the following people in your prayers:

*Carolyn Keller's good friend who has breast cancer, but also congestive heart failure.
Geri Corey's son-in-law and family whose mother, Nikki Irwin passed away on January 4.
Brian Meek's father, mother, and family
Denice Jones, Diana Bowe and Cheryl Zis' aunt, who is recovering at Helen Hayes
from brain surgery.
Keith, Mitch Weintraub's brother
Ken Strongreen, Mary Kopec's father, who is home from the hospital and on oxygen.*



“And don't forget to do good and share with those in need.” —
HEBREWS 13:16

Our Annual Church World Service Blanket Drive will be held on the first two Sundays in February. Each blanket cost \$10.00 but whether you can give \$1.00 or \$100.00 or more, all donations will be sent in to help blanket someone in warmth and caring. **Please watch for announcements in church and online.**

Your gift will support two types of Church World Service Blankets: Woolen blankets are water-resistant and flame-retardant. They are extremely durable, warm and great for frigid temperatures or other extreme weather conditions. Fleece blankets are water repellent, durable, warm and soft. These blankets keep families covered but suitable for warmer weather. The blankets are distributed to folks in the USA as well as world-wide- victims of floods, fires, earthquakes, homelessness, refugees.

Please make your check out to “**First Presbyterian Church in Goshen**” and write “**CWS Blankets**” in the memo section. You may also go online to donate at: cwsblankets.org

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Grover von Pentz</i>	14	<i>Laura Colacci</i>
2	<i>Hong Luo</i>		<i>Ann Delgado</i>
4	<i>Garfield Clark</i>		<i>Doug Wade</i>
	<i>Arlete Shaeffer</i>	16	<i>Robyn Farley</i>
5	<i>Sarah Gibbons</i>	20	<i>Becky Stewart</i>
10	<i>Linda Clark</i>	21	<i>Jack Calzaretta</i>
11	<i>Mike Csernai</i>	24	<i>Mackenzie Sproul</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.*



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Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour is a great time to meet with your friends and share fellowship. However, **Coffee Hour hosts are needed.** Please consider signing up to host one week. Someone from the Fellowship Committee will always be there to assist you.

Also, **the last Sunday of each month is Congregational Coffee Hour.** The Fellowship Committee will set up beverages, etc., but they ask that the congregation bring food items to share.

Once again, we will be playing **BINGO** on February 23rd!



Did you know that Session meetings are open to church members? If you are a member, you are welcome to attend regular meetings of the Session which are currently held in parlor on the **fourth Wednesday** of each month beginning at 7 p.m.

If you attend a Session meeting to express concern about a topic that is before the Session, please let the Clerk and the Moderator know of your desire to speak prior to the start of the meeting.

Organ Recitals

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

Financial Commitments

If you haven't made a financial commitment for 2025 but would like to support this congregation in fulfilling its work of worship, education, mission, outreach, care and fellowship, consider making a pledge using a commitment card found on the table in the Narthex or see Deb Hourahan.

Please Pay Your Per Capita Assessment For 2025

A message from the Treasurer: Please consider paying your **per capita assessment for 2025** to offset the more than \$7,000 the church must pay out to cover expenses for the Presbytery of Hudson River, Synod of the Northeast and General Assembly of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This year it remains at **\$40.89 per member** (not per family). Please assist with this expense and write a check for your family assessment and either mail it to the church or place it in the Sunday offering plate. We ask that you pay this by February 1, 2025. Thank you for doing your share to support the expense of being a church in active ministry.

Electronic Giving Cards

There are giving cards for use during the offertory for those who give electronically each week/month/year. Your gifts are meaningful and necessary, and you should be able to participate in our weekly presentation of our offerings to the Lord.

Livestreaming Worship

If you are unable to join us in person for worship, watch on our YouTube channel.
If you need help finding the Livestream, use the link on our Weekly Tower Tie.

Please Be Advised That We Do Live Stream Our Worship Services.

The Live Stream camera generally captures the first 4-5 (rarely 7-8) rows of the sanctuary in its feed. Normally we only see the back of your head. If you would rather stay out of camera range, please know that we do not capture the seating under the balcony (on either side) and we don't capture the back rows at all. Regarding the Children's Message: We keep the camera zoomed out. As children leave to go to Sunday school, we will pan up to the stained glass windows so no children's faces are caught on camera.

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden



FEBRUARY UPDATE

Memorial Pavers

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

The Memorial Columbarium

PLEASE NOTE: A niche in the Memorial Columbarium has become available. If you are interested in purchasing it, please contact Pat in the church office.

The price of the niche is \$2,800. There are two payment options:

12 month = \$250/month for 12 months (\$3,000)

18 month = \$180/month for 1 month (\$3,240)

Once this niche is sold, the Session/Congregation will need to consider if constructing a second/third wall is desired and/or financially possible. If it is, a new estimate for the work will need to be created, considered, approved and project timeline established.

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

You're Invited to the Souper Bowl!

The **"Souper Bowl"** is a unique interdenominational effort to glorify God and care for our brothers and sisters in need.

On Sunday, February 9 the Sunday school children will be collecting non-perishable food items and/or dollars for the Goshen Food Pantry.

You can also drop off donations from January 28 – February 9 at the church office.

Items needed are **canned food, peanut butter, fruits and vegetables, dry cereals, and dried goods.**

All donations go directly to the Food Pantry. Please help the Sunday school children in their efforts in making a difference.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We strive to be a welcoming, loving church family united by our faith and committed to service in Christ.

BOARD OF ELDERS

Class of 2025

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

Class of 2026

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

Class of 2027

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

Clerk of Session: Felicia Van Doran

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2025

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

Class of 2026

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

Class of 2027

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

Moderator of Deacons: Carolyn Keller

STAFF

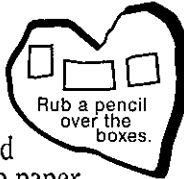
**Jonathan B. Hall, Minister of Music
Patricia Schwetje, Office Administrator
Deborah Hourahan, Church Treasurer**

THE KID'S PAGE

Make a Valentine for Someone Special

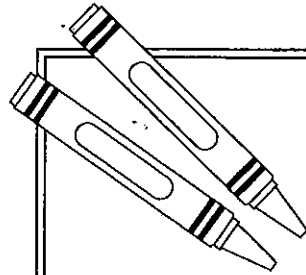
You will need:

- ♥ a sheet of red construction paper
- ♥ a sheet of white copier paper
- ♥ glue or a glue stick
- ♥ scissors
- ♥ pencil
- ♥ red marker
- ♥ fine-point black marker



How to make it:

1. Cut a large heart out of the red paper.
2. Using the leftover scraps, cut out letters (about 1 inch high) to spell "I LOVE YOU" or "GOD LOVES YOU." Glue the letters in the center of the heart.
3. Cut a heart out of the white paper. Make it about 1 inch smaller than the red one.
4. Glue the white heart on top of the red one so that a 1 inch red border shows and the letters are covered.
5. Feel where the red letters are under the white paper and draw a box around each word using the red marker. Below the last box write: Rub a pencil over the boxes to find a special message!
6. Sign your name.



Just for KIDS

A Message of Love

Luke 10:27 has a wonderful message to live by.

Find the message by writing the opposite words next to the ones given. Then transfer the letters to the numbered lines they match below.

cool	<u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u>	soft	<u>20</u> <u>21</u> <u>22</u> <u>23</u>
under	<u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u>	old	<u>24</u> <u>25</u> <u>26</u> <u>27</u> <u>28</u>
out	<u>9</u> <u>10</u>	after	<u>29</u> <u>30</u> <u>31</u> <u>32</u> <u>33</u> <u>34</u>
large	<u>11</u> <u>12</u> <u>13</u> <u>14</u> <u>15</u>	false	<u>35</u> <u>36</u> <u>37</u> <u>38</u>
quiet	<u>16</u> <u>17</u> <u>18</u> <u>19</u>		

"
14 5 6 7 35 20 7 15 17 36 23 24 5 18 8 28 17 23
1 9 35 20 2 16 14 24 5 18 3 20 7 13 8 35 2 10 23
1 9 35 20 13 14 16 24 17 37 36 11 5 18 14 2 27 19
1 9 35 20 21 15 16 24 17 18 36 11 35 3 30 10 28 35 20
2 10 23 1 9 35 20 21 14 15 24 5 37 8 4 9 10 23;"
21 27 23 16 32 6 7 24 5 18 22 10 34 9 28 20 29 17 33
13 11 24 25 26 22 11 7 14 31"



Answer:
 warm; over; in; small; loud; hard; young; before; true; "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your strength and with all your mind;" and, "love your neighbor as yourself;"

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	27 12:30pm - NA @ B	28 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Bible Study @ Zoom	29	30 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	31 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	1
2 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Worship/Music	3 12:30pm - NA @ B	4 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Bible Study @ Zoom	5 3:30pm - Mission Committee 6:30pm - NA @ B	6 5:30pm - 6pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	7 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	8 9am - Food Pantry @ FH 11am - Ottochian Party @
9 Souper Bowl of Caring 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	10 12:30pm - NA @ B	11 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Bible Study @ Zoom	12 7:30pm - Finance Committee	13 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	14 Valentine's Day 12:30pm - NA @ B 6pm - Friday Night Friends @ 10pm - NA	15 8:30am - Men's Breakfast @ 12pm - NA Event @ FH, K
16 No Church School Tower Tie Articles Due 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Deacon's Meeting	17 Holiday Presidents' Day 12:30pm - NA @ B	18 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Bible Study @ Zoom	19	20 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	21 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	22 4pm - Laura Colacci Party @
23 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Congregational	24 12:30pm - NA @ B	25 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Bible Study @ Zoom	26 7pm - Session @ P	27 6pm - Food Pantry @ FH 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	28 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	1 NA Event