

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Isaiah 11:1–9

“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. “

“Celebrate Christmas Better!” That was the note to my “future self” squarely set out on my calendar for December 1, 2017. I wrote the reminder sometime after Christmas last year. I remember feeling that Advent and Christmas had passed by without much reflection or deep engagement on my part. I vowed to change that this year. It was a clever tactic, but while the reminder gave me a head start, it also underscored my emptiness. Simply put, there were no follow-on instructions. In this sense, I had indebted my current self with the elusive task of finding a more spirit-filled meaning to the season. So here I am facing the same dilemma: how do I celebrate Christmas better?

How fitting that the scripture is restorative in nature and sets the stage for us with some tools and a vision for a world filled with the spirit. I’m particularly drawn to the verses that set forth a worldly coexistence filled “with the knowledge of the Lord.”

Given the often-polarized nature of today’s politics and the discord that can easily creep into all aspects of life, a vision of peace and harmony where all can thrive is one I’d rather embrace. Using the righteousness bestowed by the Lord coupled with our faithfulness (and a healthy delight in the fear of the Lord!) (read: and a healthy delight in holding the Lord in awe), we are provided guidance to live into the promise of a world filled with grace.

This is where I find a better way to celebrate Christmas. Just as Christ was born to fulfill God's promise to us, we are also born in Christ to live into this vision of peace and harmony. By acting out our faithfulness, we are restored and become one with the spirit. We become an active fulfiller of God's promise rather than passively waiting for something to happen to us. So I will celebrate Christmas this year by not only welcoming the Christ child into the world but by living into this promise daily.

Pastor Kingsley



Music Notes

The fall was an intensely busy time for me, but it left me feeling energized rather than exhausted. (OK, maybe a little exhausted.) So much happened that was positive and productive. As 2018 begins, there is much more to do, all of it equally positive.

Out of everything good and promising that happened, I want to express particular gratitude for the Organ Fund envelopes that were in your Christmas Eve bulletins. I'm so pleased and so happy that the organ matters to you. The importance of this place of worship, and of the integrity of all its parts including the organ, is rightly high on your list of priorities.

We don't worship a building, of course, but we make extensive use of it, and it stands as a physical witness to the Incarnation. Christmas is about God becoming a baby, taking flesh, living in a definite place and a definite point in history. A church building also witnesses in a definite place and time. I'm happy to be part of this community, and hope that 2018 brings us nothing but good things. I hope that includes a plan for our historic pipe organ.

Consider joining the choir and/or handbells this year! New members are always welcome, and we have a lot of fun.

Blessings on your new year!

Jonathan

SAVE THE DATE

"OPEN MIC NIGHT"

Friday eve, January 26th

Sponsored by the Fundraising Committee

Details will follow

For information, contact Mark Glasse'
(845) 325-4439 or mpglasse@optonline.net

Worship and Music Committee

On December 10, 2017 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. we hosted our first Christmas Carol Sing-along and hopefully this will grow into a tradition for our church during the Christmas season. Many thanks to the parishioners who donated their time and energy to set-up and clean-up and Merry Christmas to those who donated cookies. The committee cannot thank you all enough.

There were a little over fifty people attendance. Church members and people from the community at large made up the singers and listeners. Jonathan began with "Joy to the World" and then opened it up for people to call out the hymn numbers of their favorite carols that they wished to hear. Some of the chosen were the old favorites of everyone that are sung at this Christmas season, but there were a few new songs chosen as well. One in particular piqued our interest and quite possibly will become one of our future favorites. We sang and/or listened for about one hour and a half. We closed this part of the festivities with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

As we moved from the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall for coffee, tea, hot chocolate, juice and cookies it could be heard, "This was great fun and I hope it will happen again next year." This sentiment continued over refreshments.

Thanks again to all and Merry Christmas!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

December's meeting fell on a foggy, dreary night and it was cancelled. Two people didn't get the message that it was cancelled, but that was ok. We had a lovely visit. So after church on December 10 we met. Discussion on the Christmas bags we send out was planned. It was decided that our next meeting will be the first Monday in February. Information will be in the Sunday bulletin or sent by email if anything urgent comes up. Thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas bags. I am sure they were greatly enjoyed.

Everyone at PW wish each of you a happy and a healthy New Year.

Wendy Paffenroth- PW Correspondent

2017 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY JANUARY 7, 2018

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 11, 2018



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

Fran Hoffmann wanted to share this poem with you.

For the Year Ahead

And I said to the man who
stood at the gate of the year:
Give me a light that I may
tread safely into the unknown!

And he replied:
Go out into the darkness
and put thine hand into
the Hand of God!

That shall be to thee better
than light and safer than
a known way.

M. Louise Haskins

PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2018

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 **343** and **our assessment per member** (not per family) **for 2018 is \$36.83**, which is a total of **\$12,632.69** 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 JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Steve Coon</i>	14	<i>Alexandria Cox</i>
	<i>Stephen Serkes</i>	16	<i>Ed Berry</i>
	<i>Chris Viebrock</i>	17	<i>Sam Fontana</i>
5	<i>Wayne George</i>	18	<i>Michael Brooks</i>
	<i>Jeffrey Markel</i>		<i>Tanya Hagopian</i>
8	<i>Alayna Fuller</i>	20	<i>Logan Diglio</i>
	<i>Hannah Warner</i>		<i>Laura Pietropaolo</i>
10	<i>Audra Cox</i>	25	<i>Sam Boese</i>
11	<i>Susan Stewart</i>	26	<i>Emmanuel Phillips</i>
12	<i>Scott Roper</i>	27	<i>Meghan Fenner</i>
13	<i>Don Dinsmore</i>	29	<i>Christopher Paulus</i>
	<i>Molly Farley</i>	31	<i>Maddie Laskoski</i>
	<i>Ryan Farley</i>		<i>Sara Laskoski</i>
	<i>Whitney Schindley</i>		<i>Richard Paulus</i>



HAPPY JANUARY ANNIVERSARY TO:

13 *Heather and Brian Case*

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.



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



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

Sarah Bohling

Marilyn Borth

Jessica Chasen and Jackson Doehla

Sharon Conlon

John DeGroat

Mary Lee Farris and her sister

Esther Glassé

Barbara and George Hankins

Georgia Hickey

Rosemary Joy

Brenda Kujawski

Diana Martin

Richard Montalbano

Dean Oberg

Rachel Reeves

Aimyna Jade Royce

Gary Smith

Peggy Srirach

Caryl Swald

Danny Tucker and Family

June Vautin

Jo Wolfe

Orra Wood

Ed Berry

Susie Bohling

Tommy, Amy, and Makayla Brahs

Laura Colacci

Winifred Coyne

Everyone serving in the Military

Judy Fazio

Miko Graham

Kevin and Sara Hankins

Jennifer and Andy Hine

The Kingsley Family

Karen Magee

Sergio Franklin Maturana

Eileen Myslinski

Dave and Wendy Paffenroth

Maritya Reyes

Tom Sawyer

Louise Spencer

Kathy Stringer

Gary Swinger

Cindy Vanderplaat

The Wade Family

Anne Wood's brother-in-law Dennis

Phyla Wright

Ann (Strong) Blake

Hannah Boorse

John Burleson

Lawrence Colacci

Suzanne DeBlock

Judy Hankins Feragola

Bob Geyer

Lynne Gregor

Edith Hausmann

Susan Johnson

Jeff Kott and Wendy Henson-Kott

Kelly Magee Thrush

Evelyn Mercado

Amy (Thompson) Nguye

Josephine Pecoraro

Marge (Chasen) Rolan

Lisa Scheuermann

Joe Spoor

Virginia Stubenrauch

Christopher Tucker

Kenneth Van Etten

Doris Weinberger

Sandra 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.)

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden



JANUARY UPDATE

Memorial Pavers

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

7 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 JANUARY/ early FEBRUARY Steward’s Schedule:

Barbara and George Hankins	January 1 – January 15
Bill Eustance, Jen & Gregg Piller	January 16 – January 31
Beryl Yungman	February 1- February 15

YOU can be a Steward of Our Garden on any day of the week! It takes only a few minutes of your time to pick up any litter, pull a weed, sweep a few pavers clean, or gather a few leaves and you too can help keep YOUR 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 2018

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

Class of 2019

**Linda Boardman
Geri Corey
William Eustance
Brad McLeland
Brian Meek
Malcolm Stewart**

Class of 2020

**Darlene Bartley
Robyn Boardman
George Hankins
Deb Hourahan
Sue Varden
Rob Warner**

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2018

**Wendy Bynum-Wade
Laura Colacci
Donald Dinsmore
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**

Class of 2020

**Diane Church
Carol Gabella
Jane Geyer
Gina Gruber
Mary Kopec
Betty Lobb
Charlie von Pentz**

**Moderator of Deacons:
Presbyterian Women:**

Carolyn Keller

STAFF

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

