

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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January 2025

From the Pastor's Desk....

A Happy and Healthy, Blessed, Prosperous New Year to all! I pray your Christmas season was amazing. Thank you all for everything you do in the world, in the church, and in your families. You are the true blessings!

In this New Year let us focus on personal integrity. The story is told of a Christian high school senior who was honored as one of the best and brightest in his community because he provided a forceful demonstration of integrity.

When his school team was given the word “auditorium” in a regional spelling bee, he glanced down to ponder his response and noticed that the word was printed on the microphone stand. He called this to the attention of the judges who responded with a more difficult word. The young man did what he knew was right whether others noticed or not.

We don't know when our actions may become an example to others — we're always on display. But if we live each day to honor Jesus, our behavior will model His righteous life (Gal. 2:20; 1 John 2:5-6), no matter who is watching.

Uprightness and honor should be goals for Christians of every age. Paul told Timothy:

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12 NKJV).

As Christians, one of our goals in life should be to change the world around us for good while never compromising ourselves — one person at a time (Acts 10:38 NKJV; cf. 2 Timothy 2:1-2 NKJV; 1 Timothy 4:16 NKJV). Let us all echo this prayer from W.J. Fitzpatrick.

*O to be like Thee! blessed Redeemer,
This is my constant longing and prayer;
Gladly I'll forfeit all of earth's treasures,
Jesus, Thy perfect likeness to wear.*

*O to be like Thee! O to be like Thee,
Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art;
Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fullness;
Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart. —W.J. Kirkpatrick*

God Bless You All!
Pastor Todd



I write this in mid-December, right after the annual Christmas Carol Sing-along and the choir's program at Glen Arden. Both events put me in the holiday spirit! I'm hopeful for a very merry Christmas, not to mention a spiritually fruitful one.

My idea behind the Christmas caroling program is that I think we are hungry to sing together again. I don't think of music as something consumed in isolation, though of course it's possible—in a busy house, headphones can be an act of mercy! Overall, though, music should bond people. It's also not primarily an industrial product, involving the cynical manipulation of taste and the propagation of harmful ideas pasted together by a small group. Music is made by all of us.

Having studied music very seriously for a long time, I have to say that what we call "classical" music—a very broad term including quite a lot of popular music!—is essentially an effort to tease out the music inherent in God's creation. The association of intervals and string ratios, the Pythagorean discovery that an octave is a 2:1, a perfect fifth a 3:2, and so on, is united to Christian faith so that the beauty hidden in physics may be turned to the praise of God in song. A dance: pure geometry meeting pure joy.

A good analogy is the diamond hidden in the mine...the "stone poems" that we still covet, even though we can make them in a lab...or the pharmaceuticals lurking in a fragrant flower.

The poet Alexander Pope wrote about the laws of poetry, calling them "the rules of old, *discovered not devised...*" There is nothing arbitrary about art. It flows from the nature of things themselves, discovered, deduced, polished, and framed by the intellect. This is why music also speaks to the heart, for a human being is a union of body and soul, and what touches the heart probably also touches the mind somehow.

How can an organist not respect engineering, whether or not he's an expert in it?

Can God, then, also be praised by digital means? Yes, of course He can. The question is the intent, the design and purpose of the music, and the words that go with it. Music that inflames physical passion is unhelpful to the soul. Music that promotes anger and anti-social moods is hurtful to all. Music that distorts religious truth can't be healthy. Fast music isn't better, nor is slow: some music is "unsafe at any speed!"

Good music is *alive*: the rhythm and melody, the harmony and counterpoint, and yes, to a point the rhythm and bass line, all concurring to a single purpose, a holistic remedy, "charms to soothe a savage breast," and, if approached in the right spirit, a way to find God amid the noise.

Come to church in 2025 and be moved by music, opened to higher and better things, and readier to hear what is proclaimed in the pulpit and whispered in the depths of your own heart.

Happy New Year! —Jonathan

A MISSION ENDEAVOR: PLEASE HELP

During the month of January the Mission Committee will be collecting donations in order to make breakfast bags for the guests at the **Warming Station** in Middletown, NY. A collection bin will be located in the Narthex.

We are asking for donations of: **breakfast or nutrition bars, small bottles of water, individual servings of juice, commercially packaged muffins or coffee cakes, fruit cups or fruit bars.**

OTHER ITEMS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED: Men's small and medium tee shirts, boxers and long johns, coffee, hot cocoa packets, toilet paper.

ABOUT the Warming Station: "The Warming Station provides a warm and safe environment for homeless adults living on the streets of Middletown." It is open from the end of November to the beginning of April and can accommodate up to 30 people. It is open to folks on a first come first serve basis. It is organized by the Greater Interfaith Middletown Council and is run by professional help and volunteers who assist by helping at the facility, and by donating either breakfast bags or meals. Since its opening in November, it has been at full capacity. Many nights more than 30 people come to the door for shelter. The overflow are treated to a meal and assisted to find alternative accommodations for the night.

To donate a meal or breakfast bags: Go to the website *takethemameal.com* . Click on "Find a meal schedule" and type in the words Warming Station in the Client section. The password is meal. Suggestions for amounts of food needed are listed.

To the Deacons and My Church Family,

Christmas is one of my favorite holidays. I love all of the lights and the glitter and the decorations and the trees, etc. But (yes, there is a 'but') it is all a lot of work! Garland doesn't get hung by itself; trees don't get assembled, lit and decorated by themselves. It all requires work. I am so blessed to have the hardest working group of Deacons ever! We were hanging ourselves over the balcony to get the garland just right; precariously climbing ladders to hang the garland over the doorways; crawled under the stage to search for last year's décor; ran up and down the tower steps at least 50 times toting boxes and candles.

At the Craft Fair we helped vendors set up their booths by carrying in some of the heaviest boxes ever! We baked, made soup and chutney, fed our vendors, and when it was all over, we helped them pack up and load their cars. We will do it all over again next year! (Cheerfully, I might add!)

Christmas Eve is one of my favorite services. Getting ready for it is not easy! There are 78 candles for the pews and windows that have to have batteries. There are 30 for the choir loft. Those wooden poles in the pews (14 of them) have to be brought down from the balcony; the window candles have to be zip-tied in place and outfitted with candles, also.

It's a lot of work, but we all feel a sense of satisfaction once everything is done. I want to reiterate that I am so blessed to have the best crew of Deacons!!

Thank you, thank you! Happy New Year!
Carolyn

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:

Zach Coffee, nephew of Bill Powers who had unsuccessful bariatric surgery and now must wait before doctors can try again.

Judy Gastwirth, who is struggling with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.

Charles Kilmer, who had neck surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC.

Marilyn Velzy who is recovering from an injury.

The Family of Evelyn Kromm.

Nancy Musgrave, Wendy Paffenroth's sister, who is receiving chemo.

The family of Patrick Coyne, Michael's uncle, who passed away recently.

Tom Losse, who is at Vassar Hospital with a fractured disc in his spine, has balance issues, and is very weak from not sleeping at night.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Stephen Serkes</i>	17	<i>Sam Fontana</i>
5	<i>Wayne George</i>	20	<i>Laura Pietropaolo</i>
8	<i>Hannah Warner</i>	25	<i>Sam Boese</i>
12	<i>Scott Roper</i>	31	<i>Richard Paulus</i>
13	<i>Don Dinsmore</i>		
	<i>Molly Farley</i>		
	<i>Ryan Farley</i>		
	<i>Whitney Schindley</i>		
	<i>Salina Signorelli</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.*

Special Musical Opportunity

On Sunday, January 12, 2025, at 3 PM, join your neighbors at Saint James Episcopal Church, right across the street, for a Twelfth Night musical celebration!

The program, featuring our church choir and other choirs from the area, is a fundraiser for Faithbuild and Habitat for Humanity. Some of you may remember when Faith Build was “Episco-Build” – name has changed, but the vision remains the same.

See you there!

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 third 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 2024 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 2024

A message from the Treasurer: Please consider paying your **per capita assessment for 2024** to offset the more than \$8,000 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 **\$39.75 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, 2024. 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



JANUARY 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.

“Stewards of Our Garden”

Special thanks to our dedicated Stewards who work hard to keep our garden beautiful!

The JANUARY and early FEBRUARY Steward's Schedule:

Nancy Buckley January 1 – January 15

George and Barbara Hankins January 16 – January 31

Bill Eustance February 1 – February 15

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

If you'd like to help maintain our garden, just see Pat in the church office to sign-up and be added to our Steward's schedule.

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

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 Noisemaker to Celebrate Special Days

You will need:

- empty kitchen matchbox (NO matches)
- foil
- tape
- dried beans or rice
- unsharpened pencil
- 2 rubber bands
- stickers, glue and glitter (optional)

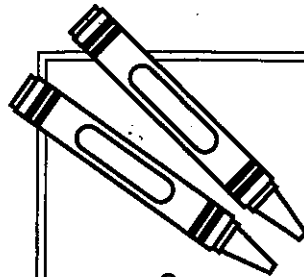


How to make the noisemaker:

- Put beans or rice in the matchbox, so that it rattles when you shake it.
- Tape the box shut.
- Cover box with foil.
- Poke 2 small holes on opposite sides of the box near one end.
- Stick the pencil into one hole, through the box and out the other hole.
- Wrap rubber bands around the pencil on both sides of the box, so the pencil won't slip through the holes.
- If you want, you can decorate the box with stickers and glitter.

How to use:

- Hold the pencil and move your wrist to spin the box.
- Make lots of happy noise to celebrate special days throughout the year.



Just for KIDS

Special Times for the Israelites



"This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it ..." Exodus 12:14

The biblical calendar had many feasts and festivals. They were connected with the changing of the seasons or special events. Below are some of the special days observed by the Israelites.

Use the code to find the name of the special day and the month of the Jewish year in which they are celebrated.

CODE:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN O PQRSTU VWXYZ
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFE DCBA

Season		Holiday	Month
1. End of Summer	ILHS SZHSZMZS	(New Year)	GRSHIR
2. Fall	BLN PRKKFI	(Day of Atonement)	GRSHIR
3. Fall	HFPPLGS	(Festival of Booths)	GRHSIR
4. Winter	SZMFPPZS	(Festival of Rededication)	PRHOVE
5. Winter	KFIRN	(Festival of Lots)	ZWZI
6. Spring	KZHHLEVI	(Feast of Unleavened Bread)	MRHZM
7. Spring	HSZEF'LG	(Feast of Weeks/Pentecost)	HREZM

Answers: 1. Rosh Hashanah; Tishri; 2. Yom Kippur; Tishri; 3. Sukkot; Tishri; 4. Hanukkah; Kislev; 5. Purim; Adar; 6. Passover; Nisan; 7. Shavu'ot; Sivan

SUN 29	MON 30	TUE 31	WED Jan 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Church School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30pm NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year's Eve 9:30am Food Par 6:30pm NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year's Day 6:30pm NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm NA 6:30pm Bell Choi 6:30pm NA 7:30pm Choir Rel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30pm NA 10pm NA 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 9:30am Church S 10:30am Coffee 10:30am Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30pm NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Food Par 12:15pm Organ R 6:30pm NA 7pm Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Mission 7:30pm Finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Outreach 6:30pm Bell Choi 7:30pm Choir Rel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30pm NA 6pm Friday Night 10pm NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Food Pantry 1pm Diva Dance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 9:30am Church S 9:30am Teen Voic 3 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30pm NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Food Par 12:15pm Organ R 6:30pm NA 7pm Bible Study 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Bell Choi 6:30pm NA 7:30pm Choir Rel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30pm NA 6pm Pinewood D 10pm NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Pinewood D 5pm NA Event
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Church School Tower Tie Articles 8:30am Confirma 3 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inauguration Day (r Martin Luther King 12:30pm NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am GAPNS Bool 9:30am Food Par 12:15pm Organ R 2 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am GAPNS Bool 12pm Clergy Lun 7pm GAPNS 7pm Session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am GAPNS Bool 6pm Food Pantry 6:30pm Bell Choi 7:30pm Choir Rel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am GAPNS Bool 12:30pm NA 10pm NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am GAPNS Bool 1pm Diva Dance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 9:30am Church S 10:30am Coffee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30pm NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Food Par 12:15pm Organ R 6:30pm NA 7pm Bible Study 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Bell Choi 7:30pm Choir Rel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30pm NA 10pm NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb 1

First Presbyterian Church - Children's Ministry in United States, 2014-2015

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
9:00am - Worship Service @ 10:00am - Ladies Hour @P4	11:00am - All @R	9:00am - Food Pantry 9:00am - All @P4	9:00am - All @R	9:00am - All @P4 9:00am - All @R 10:00am - Church Fellowship @
9:00am - Church Service 9:00am - Morning Service @ 10:00am - Ladies Hour @P4 10:00am - Morning Prayer	11:00am - All @R	9:00am - Food Pantry 10:00am - Organ Practice @R 9:00am - All @P4 10:00am - Bible Study @ 10:00am	9:00am - Women's Conference 10:00am - Prayer Conference	9:00am - Harvest 9:00am - All @R 10:00am - Church Fellowship @
9:00am - Church Service 9:00am - Youth Service @ 9:00am - Morning Service @	11:00am - All @R	9:00am - Food Pantry 10:00am - Organ Practice @R 9:00am - All @P4	9:00am - All @R 10:00am - Church Fellowship @	9:00am - All @R 10:00am - Prayer Conference @ 9:00am - All @R