

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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June 2024



I write this on the day after Pentecost Sunday—as it is traditionally called, Whitsunday. (Bill Powers’ sermon yesterday told us about the history of Pentecost as “Whitsunday,” meaning “white” Sunday...the days of the ensuing week were also named for the baptismal color of white.) The festival of Pentecost, in some traditions, has an “octave,” or entire week where the glow of the holiday continues on. So I’m still basking in the glow of Pentecost. Happy Whitsuntide!

I thought the Pentecost service was beautiful, and I hope you will thank the Emmaus Ringers and the adult choir for their hard work this year. Soon we will go into our summer mode, with an informal pickup choir on Sunday mornings. Feel free to join us if you want to—no audition or practice required! It might be a fun way to get introduced to the joys of music ministry.

Please thank and acknowledge Bill, too, for his enormous and unstinting work on the behalf of the congregation.

Also on Pentecost, I attended a concert of the Middletown Concert Chorale. They did a Mozart Mass and several choral works, as well as a variety of solo songs—the “cabaret” portion of the concert, as they called it. I was so touched that there are so many talented people in our community who are passionate about the heritage of classical music and desirous of passing it on. I think Mozart was very happy yesterday!

Our own Victoria Cottone sang a solo—a French song, “Les berceaux,” by Gabriel Fauré. I think she stole the show...a wonderful, crystal-clear performance with an absolutely effortless high note...a tricky spot, and she did it beautifully. Brava, Victoria!

The Tuesday recitals continue, and soon the organ will again predominate. Playing the pedals is very difficult, as you can imagine. The organ has a pedal keyboard, just like the regular ones but bigger, and it has 32 keys. When the feet aren’t busy with that, they are operating the “swell pedals,” which control volume—as well as operating toe pistons and other devices to control the sound.

Right now, I’m just able to clear the “black keys” of the pedals and get my toes back on the “white keys.” My knee flexion is about two-thirds of normal, on a good day. Not enough, but enough to feel encouraged and to keep pushing the envelope. The leg overall remains weak but strength returns bit by bit. Pray for me!

It's important to stick with physical therapy even when it's painful. The same is true of the church. How many people give up right before a life-changing breakthrough? No matter what changes, the life of faith is still about the contradiction of the old self. Physically and spiritually, it's good to flex your knees!

Peace to you as the Easter season concludes and the warm days of summer set in.

Jonathan

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:

Lori Kilmer's on the death of her mom and stepmom

Brad McLeland

Trey Long

Jane Geyer on the death of her mother

Bob Geyer

Fred and Janet Landrigan, friends of the Paffenroth's, who lost their entire house and all the contents to a fire on May 6th.

Margaret McCarty – fell and broke her hip and is at Park Manor in Middletown.

Bob De Block

Murphy Lauren McCabe – 18 months old and diagnosed with a rare disease that has no cure.

The Family of Gabriela Costegna

Pastoral Care

While we are without a permanent pastor, John Redman will handle any pastoral care requests. You can reach him at 914-474-0722.



NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE.....

The Outreach/Fellowship Committee would like to thank the men of our congregation for hosting the Mother's Day coffee hour. It was a wonderful tribute to all our mothers! We would also like to thank Barbara von Pentz and Nancy Warner for hosting the coffee hour on May 19. They were very generous with tasty food and a great variety of goodies. We are looking forward to others signing up to host. The Committee is always willing and available to assist. The last Sunday of the month is congregation coffee hour, so please bring an item to share.

We have several events coming up in June. June 1 is the Boulder's Family Night baseball outing. For information, see the flyer in this issue of the *Tower Tie*.

June 9 is the Jo Wolfe Dinner at the Rustic Wheelhouse in Chester. We will be meeting there at 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$45 per person which includes a dinner choice of chicken francese, baked salmon or eggplant. Also included are salad, bread, coffee, and soda, dessert and tip. RSVP to George Schust at (845) 728-2246.

The Committee is also planning on having a Raffle Basket table at Great American Weekend. We will be visiting the neighborhood businesses for donations of new items, gift cards, or gift certificates. Any help will be greatly received. Mary Kopec has written a letter of explanation to give to potential donors and also a letter of thanks. If you have any ideas or connections, please speak to Mary or anyone on the Committee.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 6 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Guest Preachers for June

June 2 – Bill Keller

June 9 – Todd Young

June 16 – Bill Keller

June 23 – Todd Young

June 30 – Bill Powers

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Benjamin Walsh</i>	12	<i>Alice Fellenzer</i>
4	<i>Dave Paffenroth</i>	13	<i>Maggie Calzaretta</i>
5	<i>Allison Cernai</i>		<i>Brad McLeland</i>
6	<i>Gary Laskoski</i>		<i>Charles Quick</i>
8	<i>Emma Begnoche</i>	14	<i>Rob Warner</i>
9	<i>Jane Geyer</i>	16	<i>Noah Dinsmore</i>
10	<i>Robert Boardman</i>	17	<i>Sophie Fontana</i>
	<i>Ginny Gallet</i>	20	<i>Carly Glassé</i>
	<i>Deb Hourahan</i>	22	<i>Orra Wood</i>
	<i>June Kreutz</i>	28	<i>Sue Varden</i>
11	<i>Lauren Panebianco</i>	30	<i>Cecile Ayres</i>



HAPPY JUNE ANNIVERSARIES TO:

30 *George and Barbara Hankins*

*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.*

Congratulations to Jim and Melissa Paffenroth on the birth of their daughter, Adelaide Jean on April 24, 2024. She weighed 7 lbs.11 oz. and was 19³/₄ inch long. They reside in Telford, Tennessee. The proud grandparents are Dave and Wendy Paffenroth.

Congratulations to Kevan and Christine Ottochian on their marriage on May 18. Best wishes for many happy years together.

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.

Recitals Return!

Jonathan has resumed the popular series of free noontime recitals on Tuesdays at 12:15 pm. Since he still has limited mobility, the programs will be “organ plus” – they will include piano and other surprises. Come one, come all, and tell your friends!

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



JUNE 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 JUNE/and early JULY Steward’s Schedule:

Bill Eustance	June 1 – June 15
Barbara and George Hankins	June 16 – June 30
Nancy Buckley	July 1 – July 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 2024

**Marlene Gaynor
George Hankins
Bill Powers
Mal Stewart**

Class of 2025

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

Class of 2026

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

Clerk of Session: Felicia Van Doran

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2024

**Patrick Ellis
Bill Keller
Barbara Schust
George Schust**

Class of 2025

**Cecile Ayres
Carol Gabella
Jennifer Serkes**

Class of 2026

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

Moderator of Deacons: Carolyn Keller

STAFF

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



First Presbyterian Church of Goshen invites you to Harry Potter Night! at
Boulders Stadium. **June 1, 2024, 6:30pm**

For \$18 (plus processing fees) you will enjoy:

A box seat ticket to Capitales @ Boulders

Each \$18 ticket purchased gives back \$5 to First Presbyterian Church in Goshen,
and once 100 tickets are sold each ticket retroactively gives back \$10!

Every ticket comes with a complimentary Boulders Promotional Cap.

The night will culminate with fireworks!

To purchase tickets:

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/Firstpresbyterian6>

Or scan the QR code:



Questions: Felicia Van Doran
914-443-4704 * Feliciav99@yahoo.com



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	27 Memorial Day Office Closed 12:30pm - NA @ B	28 9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ B	29	30 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal @ S 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P	31 12:30pm - NA @ B	1 First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month 6:30pm - Boulders Game
2 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Worship/Music	3 12:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - PNC @ Virtual	4 9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH	5 4:30pm - Mission Committee @ P 6:30pm - NA @ B	6 5:30pm - Outreach/Fellowship 6pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P	7 12:30pm - NA @ B 6pm - Friday Night Friends @ FH	8 9am - Food Pantry @ FH
9 Last Day of Sunday School 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Deacon's Picnic @ FH 4pm - Dinner Club @ Rustic	10 12:30pm - NA @ B 6:30pm - Girl Scouts @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ Virtual	11 First Presbyterian Church Happy birthday! 9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH	12 7:30pm - Finance Committee @ P	13 10am - GAPNS @ FH 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P	14 Flag Day 10am - GAPNS @ FH 12:30pm - NA @ B	15 1pm - Diva Dance @ FH, K
16 Father's Day Tower Tie Articles Due 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	17 12:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - PNC @ Virtual	18 9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH	19 Juneteenth 7pm - Session @ P	20 9am - GAPNS @ FH 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P	21 9am - GAPNS @ FH 12:30pm - NA @ B	22
23 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	24 12:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - PNC @ Virtual	25 9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH	26	27 6pm - Food Pantry @ FH 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P	28 12:30pm - NA @ B	29 6pm - Recital @ S
30 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	1 12:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - PNC @ Virtual	2 9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH	3 4:30pm - Mission Committee @ P 6:30pm - NA @ B	4 Independence Day 6pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - NA @ B	5 12:30pm - NA @ B	6 GAW