

# THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the  
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/@firstpreschurchgoshenny>

November 2024

## *From the Pastor's Desk....*

I cannot believe it has been another month since the last *Tower Tie* article I wrote. I am still learning names to put with faces, especially our children. My commissioning service was held on October 13<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm. For those of you who attended you know how amazing it was. I want to thank everyone here at Goshen and those from Scotchtown who worked so hard to make it an unforgettable experience. I am truly blessed to be exactly where I am. For this month let's take a look at what David had to say in the Psalms.

Psalm 25, *'To You, O God, I lift up my soul.'*

We lift our soul to God when we first come to Him for eternal forgiveness.

We lift our soul to God when we grow spiritually.

We lift our soul to God when we cry out to Him in need.

We lift our soul to God when we need grace.

We lift our soul to God when we mourn in grief.

We lift our soul to God when we need to be comforted.

We lift our soul to God when we seek truth.

We lift our soul to God when we are in pain.

We lift our soul to God when there is nowhere else to go. As the Apostle Peter answered Jesus in John 6:68, 'Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life."'

We lift our soul to God when we need wisdom.

We lift our soul to God when we need a reminder of His love.

We lift our soul to God when we need to persevere.

We lift our soul to God when we have come to the end of ourselves.

We lift our soul to God when we are reminded that He is, in fact, our everything.

Christian, be encouraged that you have access to Jesus to lift your soul up to Him always...

'But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.'  
Ephesians 2:13.

Lift your soul to Christ always.

God Bless You All,  
Pastor Todd



As November comes, we think more and more of Christmas and all the other holidays of the season. For those who are depressed in the dark of the year, there are brilliant colorful lights and joyful music to look forward to. It's all meant to get us past "visions of sugar-plums" into sheer wonder and gratitude at the Incarnation, the "true light" as John's Gospel says. The luminous music of the church helps us do this. "O tidings of comfort and joy"!

But first, there's Thanksgiving. Don't you just love the hymns of that season? "Come, Ye Thankful," "We Gather Together," "Now Thank We All Our God," "This Is My Father's World"...all speak to us of the harvest, the ingathering, which we also hear in the lectionary readings. As the liturgical year ends and the harvest comes into the barns, we naturally think of the end of time, the Great Harvest and the final judgment where God's plans are made fully clear to us all.

This is a time for homecomings. It's a great time to boost the music ministry, too. We can always use faithful new ringers and singers! What a great Christmas gift to give yourself, to come to a few rehearsals and then join in the jubilation!

It's only fair to come to practice, you understand. Other people do, and they are familiar with the music. It's not helpful to try to "cram" the music right before the service. If you'd like to sing, let me know and we can work out a schedule that works for you. I know how busy people are!

Still, come home to church this Christmastime. Think about choir and handbells. We are so blessed to have two great groups of musicians ministering to us week after week. There may be a place for you among them!

The music of this time of the year—the time around the winter solstice—dwells on light, gratitude, community, joy, and love. Gratitude expressed for the past in sacred tradition—for the present by our presence—and for the future in hope unshaken by even the longest nights—always, always, gratitude.

See you at rehearsals!

Jonathan

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## **Calling All Quilters and Owners of Quilts**

### **The Quilt Show Is Back!**

### **Saturday, November 23, 2024**

### **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



We will be in the Sanctuary during the Craft Fair on November 23. Please share your quilts with us for the day.

If you or your friends have quilts that you would like displayed, we invite you to bring them to the church on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22 from 4:00 – 6:30 p.m., when we will be setting up for the show or Saturday morning before 9:00 a.m. We would love to see people's handmade items or heirlooms displayed.

All items must be picked up on Saturday between 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## ***A Message From Our Clerk of Session...***

Dear Church Family,

What an exciting and blessed season we are experiencing at First Presbyterian Church of Goshen! I'm thrilled to share some wonderful updates with you all.

First, we celebrated two adult baptisms and four infant baptisms! These sacred moments were filled with joy as we witnessed our brothers and sisters publicly commit their lives to Christ. Let us continue to pray for these individuals and their families as they walk in faith, surrounded by the love and support of our church community.

We are also excited to welcome three new members into our congregation. It's always a special time when we grow our church family, and we look forward to sharing our journey of faith with these new friends.

Perhaps the most anticipated event of the season was the Installation of our new pastor, Todd. The service was a beautiful and meaningful celebration, marking the beginning of this new chapter in our church's life. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Fellowship/Outreach and the Deacons for hosting a wonderful reception afterward. We are incredibly thankful for all the contributions and help received before, during, and after the reception. Truly, many hands make light work, and your generosity and hard work made it a memorable occasion for all.

Thank you to everyone who helped make these events special. Your dedication and love are what makes this church such a warm and welcoming place.

With gratitude and joy,

Felicia, Clerk of Session

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## ***Current Happenings from the Outreach/Fellowship Committee...***

We have two big events coming up:

*The Day of the Dead* event will be on Saturday, November 2nd at the church. More details to follow.

The Advent Wreath event will be during coffee hour on Sunday, December 1st. If you plan on making a wreath, please sign up with Carolyn Keller (845 294- 5508) or Diane Church (845- 294- 5398). The Advent wreaths are being made for congregation member's homes and some shut-ins.





## **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

- ❖ Saturday - December 7, 2024
- ❖ The First Presbyterian Church in Goshen  
33 Park Place - Goshen NY 10924
- ❖ **Open Seating** from 9:00 - 11:00 AM
- ❖ Tickets-
  - Advanced reservations: \$10.00 per person
  - Children under 4 - \$5.00
  - Walk-ins welcome: \$12.00 per person
  - Children under 4 - \$6.00

*Each child's ticket includes - A visit with Santa, pancake breakfast (which includes pancakes, sausage, fruit cocktail, coffee, tea, juice), face painting & shopping for a special gift in the North Pole Gift Shoppe for that special someone.*

***You are welcome to take your own pictures.***

*Mail reservations or stop by the church office (294-7991)  
Office hours are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday.  
For questions, reach out to Robyn Boardman (845) 649-1029*

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### **SANTA BREAKFAST RESERVATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: First Presbyterian Church - 33 Park Place- Goshen NY 10924  
Attention: ***Santa Breakfast***  
Make Checks Payable to: **First Presbyterian Church**

**POINSETTIAS to adorn our Sanctuary  
ORDERING DEADLINE DECEMBER**

In honor of the birth of our Savior and in celebration of this glorious season, please consider helping us to decorate our Sanctuary with beautiful red, white, pink, and marbled poinsettias. They will be placed in the church for Saturday, Christmas Eve. One may take them home after the Christmas Service on Sunday.

Kindly consider ordering a plant in honor of or in memory of a special person(s) or loved ones, or simply to the Glory of God and in celebration of Christ's birth. **THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6. All orders must be accompanied with a check.** Please complete the form below and submit with your payment of \$15.99 per plant made payable to the **First Presbyterian Church in Goshen** (put **Poinsettias** in the memo). You may send in your order, drop it off to the office Mon.-Thurs. 9-12:45 or, put into collection plate on Sunday.

Thank you for helping us honor Christmas with festive flowers!

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**Yes, I would like to order Christmas poinsettias for the Sanctuary as follows:**

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Color</u>
_____	<b>Red</b>
_____	<b>White</b>
_____	<b>Marbled</b>
_____	<b>Total @ \$15.99 each = \$_____ due</b>



Please make checks payable to the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen (put **Poinsettia** in the memo)

**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Kindly **PRINT** as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.)

**To the Glory of God and:**

**In memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In celebration of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**To honor the birth of Jesus Christ:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

## 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](mailto: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:**

*Trey Long*

*Nancy Mason, who continues treatment at St. Joseph's Place in Port Jervis.*

*Arlete Shaeffer's in laws. Gloria, the caregiver of Jerry (dementia) fractured her hip.*

*Ed and Joy Bulluck of Arden, North Carolina, which is just south of Asheville, in this time of great need.*

*Shay Laderbush, whose mother died last week. Shay is a colleague of Bill Powers.*

*Peter Capainolo, who is having health issues.*

*Huong Leu*

## **TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER**

### **HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO:**

7	<i>Emma Glasse</i>	19	<i>Emma Boardman</i>
9	<i>Sara Hankins</i>		<i>Beth Laskoski</i>
	<i>Ashley Dinsmore</i>		<i>Julie Turi</i>
17	<i>Egidio Walsh</i>	24	<i>Kathy Alevras</i>
			<i>Amy Fontana</i>
		26	<i>Jon Hourahan</i>



### **HAPPY NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES TO:**

4	<i>Rick and Sheila Heal</i>
8	<i>George and Barbara Schust</i>
11	<i>Craig and Arlete Shaeffer</i>
24	<i>John and Mary Lee Redman</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.*

**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.





## **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**



Visit all 4 Fairs to be entered to win one of 4 prizes: \$100 in Gift Cards. Here's how:

1. Pick up a Fair Passport (available at each fair).
2. Visit fairs in any order. Get your Passport stamped at each fair.
3. Turn in your Passport with four stamps at the last fair you attend.

**No purchase necessary. Winners will be drawn from the pool of passports.**

## Saturday, November 23, 2024



**Christmas Fair ~ 10 AM to 3 PM**

**St. James Episcopal Church 1 St. James Place Goshen, NY 10924**

845-294-6225      [saintjamesgoshen.org](http://saintjamesgoshen.org)

Treasures at amazing prices! Raffle Baskets! Homemade Luncheon!  
Book Sale! Photos with Santa! Grab the kids and come on over!



**Holiday Fair ~ 9 AM to 3 PM**

**First Presbyterian Church 33 Park Place Goshen, NY 10924**

845-294-7991      [fpgoshen.org](http://fpgoshen.org)

Start your holiday shopping with selections of Handmade Items from local vendors! Enjoy our wonderful Quilt Show! Bring your family and friends!



**Holiday Fair ~ 9 AM to 3 PM**

**Grace Episcopal Church 12 Depot Street Middletown, NY 10940**

845-343-6101      [gracechurchmiddletown.org](http://gracechurchmiddletown.org)

More than just another craft fair! Vendors, Gift Baskets, Raffle Prizes,  
Fish & Chips (11:30 AM to 1:30 PM), Bake Sale, and More!



**Holiday Bazaar ~ 9 AM to 3 PM**

**United Church of Middletown 25 Orchard Street Middletown, NY 10940**



845-343-2131      [unitedpresby.com](http://unitedpresby.com)


Visit us to pick up delicious Holiday Baked Goods and shop a wide variety of Holiday Decorations, Jewelry, Household and Boutique items.

# THE KID'S PAGE

## Give Thanks

Sing a prayer at your Thanksgiving meal—or any meal!

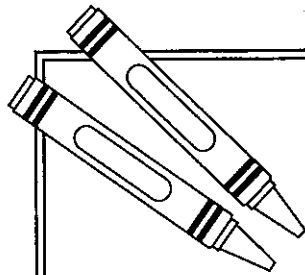
   
(sung to the tune of "Kum Ba Yah")

For our food, O Lord,  
we give thanks.  
For our homes, O  
Lord, we give thanks.  
For our families,  
we give thanks.  
 O Lord,  
we give thanks.

For our friends, O  
Lord, we give thanks.  
For our earth, O  
Lord, we give thanks.  
For each night and  
day, we give thanks.  
O, Lord,  
we give thanks.



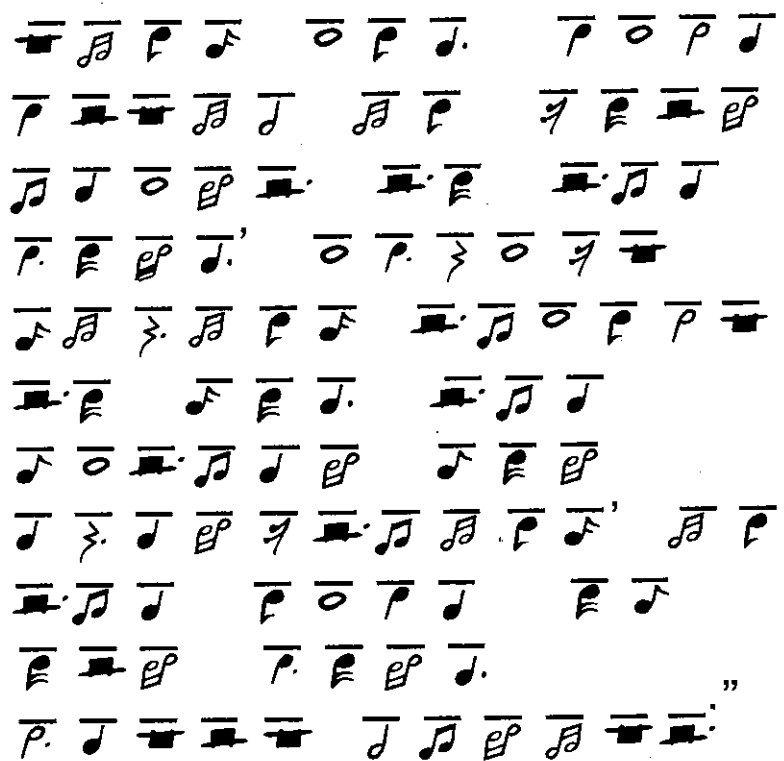
—Marie Senften































## Just for KIDS

Ephesians' 5:19b-20

Fill in the blanks using the code below.

“  ”

CODE	A	O	F	K	P	U
						
						
						
						

“Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	28 12:30pm - NA @ B	29 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Bible Study @ Zoom	30 10am - GAPNS @ FH	31 Halloween 10am - GAPNS @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	1 First Day of American Indian 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	2 Day of the Dead
3 Daylight Saving Time ends 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Worship/Music	4 12:30pm - NA @ B	5 Election Day (General 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Bible Study @ Zoom	6 4:30pm - Mission Committee 5pm - Girl Scouts @ FH, K 6:30pm - NA @ B	7 3pm - Wedding Rehearsal @ 6pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	8 12:30pm - NA @ B 1pm - Wedding @ S 6pm - Friday Night Friends @ 10pm - NA	9 9am - Food Pantry @ FH
10 Commitment Sunday 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Teen Voices @ 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Church Cleaning 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Deacon's Mtg. @ B	11 Office Closed Veterans Day 12:30pm - NA @ B	12 9am - GAPNS @ FH 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Bible Study @ Zoom	13 9am - GAPNS @ FH 7:30pm - Finance Committee	14 5:30pm - Outreach 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	15 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	16 4pm - NA Event @ FH
17 Tower Tie Articles Due 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	18 12:30pm - NA @ B	19 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Bible Study @ Zoom	20 7pm - Session @ P	21 6pm - Food Pantry @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	22 Set-up for Craft Fair 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	23 9am - Craft Fair @ FH, B, S
24 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Teen Voices @ 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	25 12:30pm - NA @ B	26 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Bible Study @ Zoom	27 12pm - Clergy Luncheon @ P	28 Thanksgiving Day	29 Native American Heritage Office Closed 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	30 1pm - Diva Dance @ FH, K