

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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September 2024

From the Pastor's Desk....

I was very pleased when Pat informed me that we not only had a monthly newsletter, but that I could contribute an article to it.

This is the middle of my third week as the pastor of First Presbyterian Church In Goshen and I couldn't be more thrilled. This is an amazing church, filled with wonderful people and a true spirit of hospitality, generosity and welcome.

I am looking forward to heading into a very bright future working closely with the Session and all the committee members. Every person in this congregation has a gift from God so that the church will be lacking in no good thing. As Paul told us in Corinthians:

"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have."

I am very much looking forward to learning what gift each of you has been blessed with to build up God's church. The path of this church is an exciting one that we will discover together and go forward in a spirit of community, fellowship, love and peace. I feel blessed to share this journey with you.

God Bless You All,

Pastor Todd



It's been a long journey, but we seem to be settling down for a while. I'm looking forward to a time of growth and stability. I hope you are too! Please join choir and/or handbells—and come to the Tuesday recitals—and bring friends!

Did you ever read *The Peterkin Papers*, by Lucretia Hale? Hale was a Massachusetts native, living from 1820 to 1900. She remained a beloved children's writer long beyond her nineteenth-century milieu. I grew up on the East Side of Manhattan in the 1960s and read about her imaginary Peterkin family with delight.

The Peterkin Papers is about a sincere but befuddled Philadelphia family. They never do seem to get anything quite right, from untying a horse to writing a novel to learning languages. As a young boy going to the Epiphany School on East 22nd Street, I loved reading about this far-away but amusing and understandable family! I got my copy from Junior Delux Editions, Garden City, NY—a company that sold books to school children on a subscription basis. Maybe you have some too! My copy is right on my shelf, still in nearly-new condition.

It strikes me that, today, we have largely lost our connection to books. By reading, I found the Victorian Era as close to me as President Johnson and the Vietnam War...if not closer. I found that there is a form of language that lives in books, distinct from, and usually better than, the shorthand we spoke on the playground. Personal memories are like the nuclear family—aching for expansion!

Without a literary tradition, I think, we become barbarians, hardly able to express ourselves beyond biological needs. We forget things we shouldn't. Why does this happen?

Who's afraid of an old book? Could it be that old books teach us good values? And what about *the Book*?

Our hymn tradition conveys perennial values as well...and without musical literacy, without a mind to cherish the good old music, we lose something of ourselves. Music deflates into a three-chord grind of commercial nothing...a far cry from the spiritual longings of Bach and Mozart, Watts and Wesley. Sure, a bit of a mixture can be fun, but what does "mixture" mean?

As I said, I lived in the 60s—I think I know the answer to that question. "Mixture" can only mean a robust tradition continuing and expanding...it can't mean "replacement."

So let's stick with our glorious hymn tradition, cherish it, take it on board, "read, mark, and inwardly digest" it—and be much the happier for it. Tradition isn't the worship of ashes, but the protection of a living flame. At least, that's how I see it!

See you in church...Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays...anytime!

Jonathan

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

All are invited to a most joyous occasion. On **October 13, 2024** at **4:00 p.m.**, there will be a commissioning service for our new Pastor Todd Young. There will be the regular service at 9:30 a.m. also. So if you can only go to one, please come to the 4:00 p.m. special service.

A Message From Our Clerk of Session...

Hello everyone,

My name is Felicia Van Doran, and I have the honor of serving as the Clerk of Session. I've been in this role for nearly a year now, and I'm delighted to be part of this wonderful community.

A bit about me: I'm the proud parent of two grown sons who are both married and have moved away. I'm currently engaged to Michael Coyne, and we live in Milford, PA. Although I initially joined the church while living in Goshen, I found so much to love about this place that I couldn't bear to leave even after relocating.

I truly believe this church is exceptional and I consider it my extended family. I am especially excited to be working alongside Pastor Todd. As a member of the PNC, I can assure you that we took great care in selecting the best person for this role. We waited patiently for the right fit, and I genuinely feel that Pastor Todd was worth the wait. I hope you will share in my enthusiasm.

Our Session meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend—just let either me or Pastor Todd know in advance. We're also in the process of staffing committees for the 2024-2025 year, and we're particularly in need of volunteers for the Nominating Committee. Every committee would benefit from new ideas and help, so please consider getting involved. Your contributions are invaluable and deeply appreciated.

If you have any questions or if there is something you'd like to have brought up at a Session meeting, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for being part of this special community.

Warm regards,

Felicia Van Doran

News from the Outreach/Fellowship Committee...

The Outreach/Fellowship Committee would like to thank all those who have hosted coffee hours this past year. We've had many variations in food and goodies and enjoyed the time together after service. Please continue to sign up and participate. The committee is always there to help!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 12 at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Anyone wishing to join us is welcome. We have some ideas for fall activities. We hope to continue with the Jo Wolf Dinner Club "Meetings" starting in late September or early October. We'll let you know the place and date soon.

We'd also like to try another fall yard sale on October 19. It's a lot of work and we need "manpower" (and women, too) to help in organizing, setting up, and closing down. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

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:

*Trey Long
Juell Powers*

Wendy Paffenroth's sister, Nancy, who is having medical issues.

David Paffenroth who had a cornea transplant and is recovering from eye surgery.

Bob Hourahan, Jon's Dad, who had a heart attack and needs stents put in.

Nancy Mason who is in St. Joseph's Rehab at Bon Secour in Port Jervis.

The Family of Karen Thurston

God's Work, Our Hands....

Twelve energetic and hard-working preteens and teens gathered during the M.A.D. (Making A Difference) camp during the week of August 19 at Nancy Mason's house, under the guidance of Ashley and Beth, to help spruce up her yard as Nancy will soon have her house on the market for sale. This was a great community and mission project and most appreciated by Nancy who is now in St. Joe's Place rehab at Bon Secour, Port Jervis.

In the near future (September) help will be needed to hold an estate sale and then clear the house out. Church members will get the first opportunity to view and purchase items.

If you can volunteer in any way, please contact Carol Gabella at 845-342-4367 or email gabellacarol@gmail.com or catch her at coffee hour. If you can help carry or haul items, suggest where to get a dumpster, or know if any person or company who does these sort of things, it would be appreciated. Nancy would appreciate any and all help from her FPC family. We, the church members, are her only family she has that lives nearby. Please consider putting your faith into action.

Looking forward to hearing from you all.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO:



1	<i>Rebecca Boardman</i>	22	<i>Bill Hodges</i>
	<i>Elfriede Johnson</i>		<i>Grace Lanuti</i>
	<i>Emily Garbutt</i>		<i>Nancy Mason</i>
5	<i>Patrick Ellis</i>	23	<i>Owen Hourahan</i>
10	<i>Nancy Warner</i>	25	<i>Clarice Schwartz</i>
15	<i>Adriana Walsh</i>	26	<i>Abigail Boardman</i>
17	<i>Matthew Kopec</i>		<i>Kiersten Warner</i>
	<i>Denise Panebianco</i>	28	<i>Kevin Hankins</i>
	<i>Daniel Serkes</i>	30	<i>Michele Meek</i>
20	<i>Evan Gallet</i>		
	<i>Darlene Jackson</i>		
	<i>Lois Schwab</i>		

HAPPY SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES TO:

9 *Jody and Mary Kopec*

*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.*

Nancy Mason's Address:

St. Joseph's Place
Bon Secour
160 E. Main Street
Port Jervis, NY 12771

2024-2025 COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

Session Member(s)

Christian Education:	Marlene Gaynor Linda Boardman
Fellowship/Outreach:	Diane Church Kevan Ottochian Linda Clark Felicia Van Doran
Finance and Administration:	Mal Stewart Jennifer Ellis Jody Kopec
Fundraising:	Bill Powers
Mission:	Diane Church
Nominating:	Jon Hourahan
Personnel:	Michael Coyne Jennifer Ellis
Property Management:	Jody Kopec
Stewardship:	
Worship and Music:	Bill Powers

Volunteer Needed

Teen Voices is looking for a moderator to join our team! Designed for students in grades 7-12, this program meets every other Sunday during Worship Services for meaningful fellowship and discussion. Participants explore current issues impacting their lives and discover how their faith can guide them through today's challenges. We're expecting 8-10 enthusiastic teens to join us this year, and we'd love for you to consider volunteering to support this incredible group. Your involvement would make a significant difference in their experience.

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



SEPTEMBER 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 SEPTEMBER and early OCTOBER Steward’s Schedule:

Bill Eustance	September 1 – September 15
George and Barbara Hankins	September 16 – September 30
Nancy Buckley	October 1 – October 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**



CRAFTING IN THE BARN AT HILL HOLD

Join us in the beautiful, historic barn at Hill Hold Museum for a crafting program and learn how to make zinnia flowers with pinecones and paint. Then we'll turn them into a beautiful sign to display in your home. Choose from a plain, cork or chalk board. It's fun and easy! All supplies will be provided and light refreshments will be served.

All proceeds raised go to benefit the museum.

September 15th from 2pm-4pm

\$20pp Call 845-615-3828

to reserve a spot by 9/6/24 or visit:

www.hillholdandbrickhouse.org



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Worship/Music	2 Labor Day Office Closed 12:30pm - NA @ B	3 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH	4 4:30pm - Mission Committee 6:30pm - NA @ B	5 6pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - NA @ B	6 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	7
8 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Deacon's Mtg. @ B	9 12:30pm - NA @ B	10 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH	11 7:30pm - Finance Committee	12 5:30pm - 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	13 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	14 9am - Food Pantry @ FH
15 First Day of Hispanic Tower Tie Articles Due 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	16 12:30pm - NA @ B	17 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH	18 7pm - Session @ P	19 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	20 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	21
22 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	23 12:30pm - NA @ B	24 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH	25	26 6pm - Food Pantry @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	27 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	28
29 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship/Baptism @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	30 12:30pm - NA @ B	1 9:30am - Food Pantry 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH	2 4:30pm - Mission Committee 6:30pm - NA @ B	3 6pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	4 12:30pm - NA @ B 10pm - NA	5