



★ December 2018

# The Good News Letter

## Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING



### “Stew” Lunch - A Community of Stewards

We are grateful for all the folks who went shopping and were busy in their kitchens making our 6th annual “Stew” lunch a wonderful success. Like the story of the loaves and fishes, our food multiplied to feed 12 tables full of people who enjoyed delicious homemade stews, soups and other delights, crusty breads and mouthwatering desserts. Hardly a morsel was leftover!

The Community of People garland we created on November 4<sup>th</sup> was displayed overhead and additional paper people graced each table!

*(cont'd on pg. 4)*

### Giving Thanks at the Thanksgiving Dinner

Over 45 people, from our congregation and our community, gathered at church on Thanksgiving to enjoy the delicious food and wonderful fellowship. “I think it was one of the best Thanksgivings yet, it keeps getting better and better”,



said Pastor Debbie. Thanks to Marleni Ruano, Tom Puls, Jane Wong and Kim Lewis for their work to make it happen.



### Christmas Pageant, Advent Crafting Fair & Pasta Lunch

*Sunday, December 2*

Start the holiday season off right! Watch or participate (all kids are welcome) in the pageant, then come downstairs for a pasta lunch, music, holiday crafting, gingerbread house decorating, and fellowship for all ages.

- 9:15am - Pageant practice
- 10am - Service and pageant 
- 11am - Crafting and pasta lunch

You are invited to bring cookies, brownies or sweet breads. Also.....

***Bring a friend!***



*Christmas Eve  
Worship*

**Family Candlelight Service**  
7pm

**Candlelight Service**  
11pm

## Pastor Debbie on Opportunities to Prepare the Way

Dear Friends in Christ,

December approaches, and we get ready to celebrate the incarnation, God with us in Jesus. This December we will have several opportunities to consider how we can be people of courage and hope in the midst of the fear that gets in our way.



First, we are offering a 31-day study of Biblical verses inviting us to live life unafraid. Everyone is invited to join this December journey! Send an email to Pastor Debbie at [pastor@pvillepresby.org](mailto:pastor@pvillepresby.org) to sign up.

Next - we will be having a three-part study called Do Not Be Afraid: Fear and Hope in Today's World. The classes will be at 11:30 on three Sundays: December 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We hope these opportunities will be a blessing to you, as you prepare the way for Christ to come into your life anew this year!

In Christ's Love,

*Pastor Debbie*

### Social Justice Dialogue at the Jacob Burns Film Center

Jacob Burns Global Watch 2018: Crisis & Social Action

"A year-round documentary series that untangles the stories behind the headlines, sheds light in dark corners, and introduces us to the people working to make the world a better place." Each viewing is followed by a Q&A with the director of the particular film. Open to all, PPC is sponsoring a hand full of tickets, please reach out to [skylar@pvillepresby.org](mailto:skylar@pvillepresby.org). Please join us at 7pm on the following dates, more details can be found [here](#).

Thursday, 12/13. [The Feeling of Being Watched](#)

Thursday 1/17. [What is Democracy?](#)

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### Year-end Giving Opportunities

Have you considered making a separate end of year gift to the Endowment Fund? Or setting up other long term gifts through stock, will, bequest, annuity, etc.? Information is available by contacting our church office. Thank you for your generous gifts!



### Save the Dates

<i>Men's Breakfast</i>	Dec 1
<i>Christmas Pageant</i>	Dec 2
<i>Crafting &amp; Pasta Lunch</i>	Dec 2
<i>Hearts &amp; Hands</i>	Dec 9
<i>Posada Pot Luck Dinner</i>	Dec 14
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	Dec 16
<i>Christmas Eve Worship</i>	Dec 24
<i>ASP Shareholder Dinner</i>	Jan 27

### Annual Meeting of the Congregation

*Sunday, December 16th*

Come to the Congregational Meeting, right after worship, when members of the congregation elect elders, deacons and members of the 2019 Nominating Committee. We will also vote on the church bylaws and on the "terms of call" for Pastor Debbie and "transact such other business as may be appropriate" at this meeting.

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### End of Year Preserve Our Property

Remember your 2018 contribution to the POP fund. We are gearing up for new property upgrades including an external face lift to the Christian Education wing and parking lot paving improvements in the coming year. Thank you for including us in your end of year planning.

# Church News

## Christmas for Appalachia Update

Thanks to everyone who sponsored a family for our annual Christmas for Appalachia project. This year, the Kentucky charity we work with, the Christian Appalachian Project, asked our church to support 19 large families, most with four to six children. You did a great job teaming up with friends, your Bible study group, book club and more to jointly adopt these families. Your boxes of gifts will be distributed to these families beginning the first week of December. Thank you for helping to make their holidays brighter.

## Thanksgiving Food Drive for Children's Village

*Makes a Big Impact*

Your generosity enabled us to donate more than 80 grocery bags of food last month to Children's Village, to be given to the boys and their families over the Thanksgiving holiday. Pastor Debbie blessed the food in church on November 11th before local Boy Scouts helped us load the bags in cars and drive it to Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry.

Rev. Co Holby, Chaplin at the Village, said, "An enormous thank you from Children's Village for the wonderful collection of food for the families of our residents."



## Welcome Skyler Mosenthal

*Our New Ministry Associate*

As a math and science teacher, former educational non-profit program director, member of the church,



and lover of learning, Skyler joins the PPC Ministry Associate Team eager to serve the place and the people that have been a family since his childhood. He will be helping to strengthen the mission and justice ministries and grow the church's efforts toward cultural and environmental sustainability.

Skyler has a B.A. in Educational Studies from Denison University, a M.A. in Secondary Math and Science Education from Loyola Marymount University, and experience in praise night worship.

Welcome Skyler!

## "Stew" Lunch

*(cont'd from pg.1)*

We were moved by our speakers, Gail Zarick and Jenny London who told us their stories about how we *Build our Community of Stewards* at Pleasantville Presbyterian. We say thank you too, to all those who helped with the setting up, scrubbing up and putting away afterwards.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we deeply appreciate all of you who returned your pledge cards in person, online or by mail. It's not too late! You can set up your pledge digitally on our website: [pvillepresby.org](http://pvillepresby.org) then select "Stewardship" under the **About** column. Through our faith in Jesus and our faithful financial contributions we will do amazing things in 2019. Thanks be to God.

## Your Pledge Card?

If you haven't already done so, remember to bring or mail in your Stewardship Pledge card. Additional cards are available in the church office and in the back of the Sanctuary, or go digital!

## ASP Dates

Save these dates for our 2019 Appalachia Service Project

*Sunday, January 27th - 6pm*  
**ASP Shareholders Dinner**

*July 20-July 28, 2019*  
**ASP mission trip**

For more info, talk to Gail Zarick or email [asp@pvillepresby.org](mailto:asp@pvillepresby.org)

## Hearts & Hands Boutique

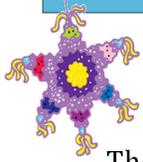
**Sunday, December 9th**

After worship in Fellowship Hall

**Come buy handcrafted gifts!**



# Church News



## Come to the Posada Christmas Potluck Party

Friday, December 14th - 6pm

All are invited to come to the "Posada" to celebrate Christmas. The Posada is a traditional celebration from Mexico and Guatemala that reenacts Mary and Joseph's search for a room in Bethlehem.

We will have a Potluck Dinner, piñata and music in the Campbell Room and invite you to come, join in the celebration and bring a dish to share. For more information talk with Barb Loizeaux, Susana or Victor Corona. **All are welcome!**

## Share Your Musical Gifts



During Advent and Christmas, members of the congregation are invited to play or sing Christmas music during the prelude to the services. All are welcome to participate. The only requirement is that your selection be related to the nativity of our Lord. If you are interested, contact Dave Macdonald.

## 3 Ways to Give

**Envelopes** - If you wish to continue to make your contribution using the envelopes, please let Jo Anna know in the church office.

**E-giving** - You can also give through the church's secure e-giving web page. You can get there by going to "e-Giving" in the About section on the home page of [pvillepresby.org](http://pvillepresby.org). **If you are already an e-giver**, remember to change your weekly or monthly contributions to reflect this year's pledged amounts!

**App on your phone** - You can also download the "GivePlusChurch" app to your Smartphone. Once you download the app, it will prompt you to enter the name of our church and then follow the directions. Simple, secure and easy! Questions? See Christine Alvis.

## Sign Up for the 31 Day Study

*It arrives in your inbox!*

This December our church will be offering an opportunity to do a 31 day study of Biblical verses inviting us to **live life unafraid**. Everyone is invited to join the journey. Simply email [info@pvillepresby.org](mailto:info@pvillepresby.org) and ask to be on the list to receive daily readings.

## Adult Ed Study

**Do Not Be Afraid:  
Fear & Hope in Today's World**

December 9, 16 & 23  
11:30 after worship

*Led by Pastor Debbie*

## Christmas Joy Offering

December 23rd

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial and ethnic schools and colleges. Please give generously.



## Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 1st

7:30 am in the Campbell Room

This month's topic will be the people of Mexico. Victor Corona will lead a multimedia discussion about the Mexican people, what it's like to live there and why some migrants might want to come to the US. This should be a very informative discussion. Chef Pono Wong will be cooking breakfast. What better way to start your weekend!? Please RSVP to Mark Zarick at [men@pvillepresby.org](mailto:men@pvillepresby.org)

## Intergenerational Learning and Fellowship Event

February 28th

Remember the "Listening Sessions" Pastor Debbie and David Fourie hosted last year...when we gathered to brainstorm ideas about how we want to see ourselves move forward as a congregation? Well, we came up with some great suggestions that turned into opportunities like the photography exhibit and the new Associates Program.

At the Leaders' Retreat this year we revisited that list. It soon became apparent that there was a lot of energy around intergenerational learning. So, on February 28th we are going to have our first lecture series. We will have a Pot Luck Supper together and then you will have the option of choosing one of three lectures to attend. Stay tuned...and save the date!

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Faith, fun, fellowship and friends, with a bit of mission mixed in.

**Youth Group** is held at the church on Sunday nights from 5-7pm for kids in grades 5-12. Dinner is always provided by the members and friends of the youth council. Kids meet in the youth room or the fellowship hall and can be picked up in either place as well!



**Gingerbread house construction!**



## **December Schedule**

12/02/18–Game night - food provided by Linda Berg  
12/09/18– Game night - food provided by Kat Nemec  
12/16/18–**Christmas Party!**  
12/23/18–**NO YOUTH GROUP**  
12/30/18–**New Year's Party!**



## Christmas Party!

**December 16**

Come join us at the church to hang out with friends, eat some Christmas goodies and watch a Christmas movie!

Questions? Email us at [youth@pvillepresby.org](mailto:youth@pvillepresby.org)

# december



<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
						1 7:30am Men's Bkfst
2 8:45am Chancel Choir Practice 10am Worship Advent Pageant Childcare in the Nursery 11am Advent Craft Fair 5pm Youth Group	3	4 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Men's Bible Fellowship	5 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	6 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm	7 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	8
9 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Intergenerational Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11am Hearts & Hands Boutique 11:30am Adult Ed. 5pm Youth Group 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10	11 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Men's Bible Fellowship	12 7:30pm Session Mtg.	13 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm	14 6pm Posada 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	15
16 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11am <b>Annual Mtg. of the Congregation</b> 11:30am Adult Ed. 5pm Youth Grp	17	18 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Men's Bible Fellowship	19 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	20 10am GBPS Christmas Party	21 6pm English Class - Campbell Rm.	22
23 <i>Christmas Joy Offering</i> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Deacon's Meeting 11:30am Adult Ed.	24  <b>Candlelight SERVICE</b> 7pm Family Worship Svc. 11pm Candlelight Worship Svc.	25 <b>Merry Christmas</b> 	26 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	27 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm.	28 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	29
30 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Deacon's Meeting 5pm Youth Grp	31					

## Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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## Celebrating our People



### 40 Year Member Celebration

In late October we celebrated our bi-annual tradition of recognizing the congregational members of 40 years plus.

#### **Bottom row: (L to R)**

Margaret Smith, Mickie Eschweiler, Peter Eschweiler, Steven Eschweiler and Guido Poet

#### **Middle & back rows: (L to R)**

Sandy Hibbard, Larry Thornton, Keith Dougherty, Dottie Dougherty, Jo Anne Gullotta, Marge Gullotta and Steve Berg.

### International Pot Luck Lunch

*October 28th*

Celebrating our many backgrounds and heritages plus enjoying a most delicious meal!

