



The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING

STEW LUNCH



Thankyouthankyouthankyou to all who labored so mightily and brought forth the offering of homemade stews, pasta, desserts and crusty bread this past Sunday! We were 75 strong, all enjoying the delectable fare and the good conversation that went with

it. Thanks also to those who set up the fellowship hall and cleaned up afterwards. (Continued on page 4)



Christmas Pageant, & Advent Crafting Fair

Sunday, December 8

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

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



Pastor Debbie on Preparing the Way and Finding New Ways to Connect

Dear Friends,

As Advent approaches, we prepare the way once again for the good news. And it seems to me we are really in need of God's love breaking into our world as December comes. I am thankful for the ways we work together to be witnesses to that light shining through - excited about Preparing for the season to come.

This Advent our adult study will take place on December 1st, 15th and 22nd - on the topic Preparing the way. In addition, I'm beginning a mid-week devotional this Advent. It's called Reflections on the Journey. Our first few topics will be Overcoming Fear, Repentance, Forgiveness and Making Space. I'm looking forward to another way to connect with all of you!

Speaking of connecting, our new worshipping communities website, connect.faith is now live! We're excited about this milestone on the journey, and even more excited to share with you the experience we had together this October, connecting with people around creativity, spirituality and justice. Check out the website - and be ready for our December 22nd launch!

May God be with you as you prepare the way for the light of Christ to be born in us this Christmas!

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Debbie



Save the Dates

<i>Men's Breakfast</i>	Dec 7
<i>Christmas Pageant</i>	Dec 8
<i>Advent Craft Fair</i>	Dec 8
<i>Posada Dinner</i>	Dec 13
<i>Karaoke Night</i>	Dec 20
<i>Choir Sunday</i>	Dec 15
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	Dec 15
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	Dec 24
<i>Photography Exhibit</i>	Jan 18-19
<i>ASP Shareholders Dinner</i>	Jan. 29

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, December 15th

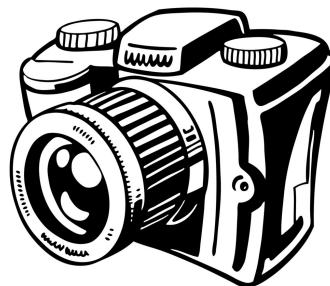
Come to the Annual Congregational Meeting, right after worship, when members of the congregation will vote on the "terms of call" for Pastor Debbie.

What Are You Thankful For? Photography Exhibit

*January 18, 2020 2pm-5pm,
January 19, 2020 12pm-3pm
The Hub (Room 202/204)*

All are welcome to partake in or come experience this exhibit!

Pictures can be sent to Photoworks by email, phone, a disc, flash drive, or brought in. Photoworks will print either a 8x10 for \$15 or 8x12 for \$18 for you. Please have them put it onto a 11x14 matte (8x10 is \$5.95; 8x12 is \$6.95). Please deliver the photos to Pleasantville Presbyterian Church's office by January 4th with a note attached that says "for photography exhibit"! If you are participating from a distance, include in the email that it is for PPC's photography exhibit, and we will pick it up for you!



Family Candlelight Service
7pm

Candlelight Service
11pm

Church News

Christmas for Appalachia Update

Members of our church this year are sponsoring 12 Appalachian families for Christmas, buying gifts on their wish lists that they can't otherwise afford. We've been partners for more than a decade with the Christian Appalachian Project in Kentucky, which sponsors this mission project. Thanks to everyone who is participating!



Stew Lunch

(cont. from page 1) Before we sat down to eat, we were treated to two wonderful talks by two wonderful young people—Samantha Gortsema and Brody Porter—who eloquently told us what our church and its people mean to them. We are grateful to Samantha and Brody for the privilege of hearing their precociously affectionate, insightful and godly words, accentuating in the best possible way the theme of our stewardship campaign, “We love to tell the story”.

Your Stewardship Committee is deeply grateful for all of you who turned in your pledge cards in person on Stewardship Sunday, or by mail or online. If you haven't yet done so, it's not too late! You can still leave your card off at any Sunday service or at the Church office, send it by Uncle Sam's mail or set your pledge up on our website: pvillepresby.org: Select **Stewardship** under the **About** column for very easy to read instructions. Our faith and our faithful contributions will make 2020 another amazing year for our fellowship. Thanks be to God.

Important ASP dates to Remember

January 26, 2020, 6pm: Pleasantville ASP Shareholders Dinner at the Church. This dinner is a great way to learn about the Pleasantville ASP mission, for those who wish to volunteer in 2020. It is also our way of thanking our Shareholders, the wonderful people who supported this mission last year.

July 18 - July 26, 2020: ASP mission trip dates. ASP has confirmed these dates for our group. We expect to travel to West Virginia.

Special note to adults (over 25) and parents: Please consider volunteering in 2020! This mission cannot be accomplished without a critical mass of adult volunteers. Your willingness to volunteer enables us to say “yes” to youths who want to volunteer.

If you have questions or want to volunteer in 2020, please send an email to Gail Zarick at or visit the church website. Applications to participate in the Pleasantville ASP 2020 mission are due at the Shareholders Dinner on January 29th.

Celebrate Christmas with Handel's “Messiah”

On December 15 the choir will sing their annual Christmas Music Service. They will sing selected choruses from Handel's "Messiah," along with the moving Praise anthem "We Have a Savior."

Don't miss this service of worship and song!

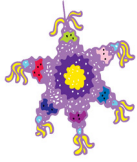
Year-end Giving Opportunities

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!

End of Year Preserve Our Property

Remember your 2019 contribution to the POP fund. So far this year we completed the “face lift” on the CE Wing as well as the much needed roof and other improvements to the Carriage House and our parking lots. Check out the newly refurbished Hub in the CE Wing too. We are gearing up for new property upgrades in 2020, our final year of POP fundraising. Stay tuned! Thank you for including us in your end of year planning.

Church News



Come to the Posada!

Friday, December 13th - set-up at 6 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm

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 share traditional food and have music in the Campbell Room and then will break piñatas in the Fellowship Hall. We invite you to join us and bring a dish to share. For more information talk with 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.

Karaoke Night

December 20th 7pm-9pm
The Hub (Room 202/204)

All welcome to join in the fun!

Baked goods, coffee & tea for sale (profits to the church)

Men's Ministries in December

Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 7:30 pm

Campbell Room

Join this growing group of men, sharing their thoughts on the Bible and how it applies to our lives. Don't miss these meetings, we are having some amazing conversations!

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 7th, 7:30 am

Campbell Room

Join us for a breakfast, followed by a presentation from Peter Eschweiler about his 2016 trip, entitled "Farthest North: Norway and the Svalbard Archipelago."

Thanksgiving food drive a success!

Thanks to your many donations of canned corn, green beans, boxed stuffing and all the other trimmings that make a great Thanksgiving meal, the boys of Children's Village and their families will have a delicious holiday dinner. We've supported Children's Village with our Thanksgiving food drive for many years. This year, we delivered 85 grocery bags to the Dobbs Ferry campus.



Christmas Joy Special Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we have the opportunity to augment the financial stewardship we pledge each November: we can again say "yes" to God by giving to the Christmas Joy Offering of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. to help current and retired church workers and leaders in their time of need and to aid our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges in equipping communities of color to do God's work. God has blessed the Church with great leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. While every day of the year is right to provide that and many other manifestations of support, the Advent and Christmas season is particularly appropriate because of the special emphasis Christians place on helping the needy during that time.

We'll receive the Christmas Joy offering at our service on December 22. Let's give as generously as we can in the spirit of this treasured, nearly one hundred forty-year Presbyterian tradition. For more information, please google "PCUSA Special Offerings".



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Get to Know Someone New!

Dinner for Eight

“And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,” -Acts 2:46b

Dinner for Eight is a great way to meet new people in our church community. The dinners can provide an opportunity to spend time eating and sharing together.

What happens at Dinner for Eight?

Groups will plan meals and get together at a participant's home or the Campbell Room. The emphasis is on fun and fellowship, so they don't have to be a great cook to participate. In addition to having dinner together, they should plan on spending some time just having fun: enjoying a meal in someone's home, perhaps playing board games, or just spending time together with some after-dinner coffee. They also can pick a conversation topic or gospel to discuss. At the end of the day, the specifics surrounding the dinner are up to the individual group.

How does a Dinner for Eight Group work?

Interested parties can simply fill out the online registration form to show their interest. Once participants are signed up, the Dinner for Eight Coordinator will contact members with details. This person will be chosen once interest is gauged. One or more groups may form.

Interested? Sign up at <https://bit.ly/32XdqSU>, or contact Kim Porter or Pastor Debbie for more information.

