



★ December 2017

The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING

Good Food and Fellowship at our Stew Lunch



We are grateful for all the folks who went shopping and were busy in their kitchens making our 5th annual "Stew" lunch a wonderful success. Like the story of the Loaves and Fishes, our food multiplied to feed 10 tables full of people who enjoyed delicious homemade stews, soups and other delights, crusty breads and mouthwatering desserts. Hardly a morsel was leftover!

The Sharing Garland we created on November 5th was displayed overhead and additional thankful leaves graced each table.



We were moved by our speakers, Kim Lewis, Esther Kim and Susana Corona who told us their stories of what we have to share 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 or by mail. Through our faith in Jesus and our faithful financial contributions we will do amazing things in 2018. Remember, *We've Got Something to Share*. Thanks be to God.



Christmas Craft Making

Sunday, December 3rd
Right after worship.

Light buffet lunch, crafts and fellowship for all ages!

Invite a friend!

Come to the Posada Christmas Potluck Party

Friday, December 15th - 6:30pm

"It's my family's favorite event of the year, everyone should come!"
says Andrew Porter.

The English and Spanish classes invite **everyone** to join them at a "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!**




Christmas
EVE

Family Candlelight Service
7pm
Candlelight Service
11pm

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

December 2nd

Jazz Vespers

Saturday 5:00 pm

Come experience the presence of God, reflect and listen to amazing music

December 3rd

Pizza and Games

5:00-7:00pm – Jr High

6:00- 8:00 pm – Sr High

Come hang out and bring a friend

December 10th

Movie Night

5:00-8:00 pm

Junior and Senior High youth will join Kat and Greg Nemec for dinner and all things “ELF”

December 17th

Cookie Baking and White Elephant Gift Exchange

5:00-7:00 pm – Jr High

6:00pm-8:00 pm – Sr High

For a sweet time, meet at the church to bake and decorate cookies. Bring a friend and bring a gift; \$10.00 limit please

December 24th

Christmas Eve no PYC

December 31

New Year's Eve no PYC



Sending out College Care Packages

Looking forward to January!

Our annual Martin Luther King Youth Retreat and Ski Trip is coming up soon. We will leave from the church on Saturday morning January 13th and drive to Butternut Mountain for a day of skiing. We will stay overnight at Camp Jewell for tubing, games, fun and oh, yes, sleep! This trip is open to all Junior and Senior High School youth. We will need plenty of drivers and chaperones. Please speak to Maria if you are interested and she will provide you with information on how to register. We will need a count by Sunday, December 17th. Scholarships are available.

Note about PYC scheduling: unless noted otherwise

Junior High meets from 5:00-7:00 pm

Senior High meets from 6:00-8:00 pm


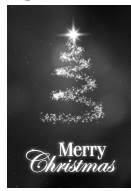

Both groups meet from 6:00-7:00 for dinner and fellowship.

Please note that both Junior High and Senior High youth will be together for movie night on December 10th.

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DECEMBER 2017

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

Pastor Debbie on Worldchanging 101

Dear Friends in Christ,

When I think about a typical week at Pleasantville Presbyterian Church - there is almost always one or more conversations asking the question - What can we do? What can we do about something happening in our world that we think is counter to God's will? What can we do about the environment, gun violence, racism, sexism, prejudice against LGBTQ people, immigration law? There are people with a passion about all of those issues and more - but often the passion is accompanied by a feeling of hopelessness.



Our Advent study this year is Worldchanging 101. It will challenge our sense of powerlessness by helping us find one next thing we can do to help with the inbreaking of the light of Christ into the world.

You can participate at 11:30 on Sunday morning - or by joining an email group. May this Advent be a time of the renewal of hope in all of our lives!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Debbie



Save the Dates

<i>Jazz Vespers</i>	Dec 2
<i>Christmas Pageant</i>	Dec 3
<i>Christmas Craft Making</i>	Dec 3
<i>Advent Study</i>	Dec 3
<i>Advent Study</i>	Dec 10
<i>Posada Christmas Party</i>	Dec 15
<i>Christmas Joy Offering</i>	Dec 17
<i>Congregational Meeting</i>	Dec 17
<i>Advent Study</i>	Dec 17
<i>Christmas Eve Worship</i>	Dec 24

Come to the Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 17th

Come to the Congregational Meeting, right after worship, when members of the congregation elect elders, deacons and members of the 2018 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.

Remember Your Pledge Card!

Just in case you haven't already done so, please 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. Thank you!



We've Got
Something
to Share

STEWARDSHIP 2017

<p>My Stewardship Record for 2018</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>We've Got Something to Share STEWARDSHIP 2017</p> </div> <p>My commitment will be... <i>(please select one)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A one time gift of \$ _____ • \$ _____ per week • \$ _____ per month • Annual gift approximate total \$ _____ <p style="font-size: small;">Pleasantville Presbyterian Church Pleasantville, NY</p>	<p>Pledge Card for 2018 Giving Pleasantville Presbyterian Church</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">In response to the gifts I receive from God, and as an expression of my faith in and commitment to Christ and the church, the following is my gift toward the ministries and mission of the church for 2018.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">My commitment will be... (please select one)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A one time gift of \$ _____ • \$ _____ per week • \$ _____ per month • Annual gift of \$ _____ </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did you know that you can give electronically? • Have you included the church in your will? <p style="font-size: x-small;"><i>Please contact the church office if you want more information.</i></p> <p>Name(s) _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City/State _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>E-mail _____</p>
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Church News

Friends Aiding Friends

Aid for Puerto Rico

In early November, Hearts & Hands had a unique opportunity to send aid and assistance to Puerto Rico. Daisy Mannino, a member of our group, traveled to the island to help her mother and sister in the aftermath of the hurricane.

With the help of another member, Josie DiCostanzo, Hearts & Hands sent money for Daisy to use in providing supplies and food to people in her mother's hometown, many of whom had lost everything. Daisy also helped in the soup kitchen set up in the town's church, which fed many of the citizens of the area.

As of this date, Daisy's mother still does not have electricity, and is living with Daisy's sister who has electricity. Hearts & Hands raises money through our Boutique Sale which many of you shopped at a few weeks ago. We thank you for your support.

Want to Know About Church Membership?

If you've been thinking about becoming a member of PPC or would just like to know more about what it means to join, we invite you to let Pastor Debbie know. She can arrange a time to talk with you and answer any questions you may have. If you decide you'd like to join, she can tell you more about it.

Talk with Pastor Debbie or email her at pastor@pvillepresby.org

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 or
- annuity.

Information is available by contacting our church office. Thank you for your generous gifts!



Sing We Enchanted Performs Concert for Peggy

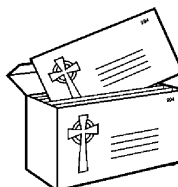
Sing We Enchanted (*Nell Macdonald's a cappella ensemble*) is performing a Christmas concert: "Wassail All Over the Town: Carols of Rejoicing & Revelry" on Saturday, December 9th at 3pm at The Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns, 42 N. Broadway, Tarrytown. The concert will be dedicated in loving memory to Peggy Toy, who always attended SWE's concerts. Suggested donation is \$20 and for students and seniors - \$15. Free to children 12 and under.

Giving Envelopes and E-Giving

Envelopes for your weekly offering may be ordered for 2018 through the church office. If you wish to continue to make your contribution using the envelopes, please let Jo Anna know. You can do this by stopping by the church office, via email: jativnan@pvillepresby.org, or by phone: 914 769-0458 option 1.

An alternative option for your contributions can be found on our Church's secure e-giving web page. On-line payments are easy. After a quick registration process you will be able to make one-time or recurring weekly or monthly payments. You can sign on anytime to check your payment status, or to change your payment plan. You can get to the e-giving site by going to "e-Giving" found in the About section on the home page of our website: pvillepresby.org. **If you are already an e-giver, remember to change your weekly or monthly contributions to reflect this year's pledged amounts!**

NEW! You can download the App to your Smartphone from the App Store or Google Play. Simply search for "GivePlusChurch". 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.



Church News

Thanks for the Canned Goods and Stuffing!

You made our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, which helps boys at Children's Village and their families have hearty holiday meals, a big success this year. So many bags of canned vegetables, soups, stuffing and more were donated that when Pastor Debbie blessed the food on November 12th, before we delivered it, grocery bags seemed to carpet the sanctuary.



"Thanks to all who did their Godly shopping," Rev. Colleen Holby, Director Emeritus of Pastoral Care at Children's Village, wrote us. "The food is in process of being packed as we write; 200 boxes filled with food from your collection and a turkey on top."

Robert Ward, a staffer at Children's Village and a former resident there, presented a "Minute for Mission" at church on November 12th, thanking the congregation for its generosity and relaying his story. While at Children's Village, Rev. Holby led him to Christ, he said, which was the first and most important step that turned his life around.

Share Your Musical Gifts at Christmastime

We invite you to share your musical talents during the upcoming Christmas season. You are invited to sing or play a Christmas selection as a prelude to one of the services between December 3 - 31. If you are interested, please talk with Dave Macdonald after church.

Donate a Christmas Poinsettia

Please complete and mail to the church office if you wish to donate a poinsettia for the sanctuary. Deadline for orders is December 2nd. Please reserve ___ poinsettias for me. Attached is \$20 for each plant order.

___ In Memory of _____

___ In Honor of _____

___ To the Glory of God

Name _____

Phone _____

Amount enclosed _____

Please pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas services are over.



Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 3rd

During worship

Thanks for the Gifts!

Thanks to all the people in the congregation who participated in our Appalachia Christmas Project. Over 30 families will receive gifts at Christmas because of your generosity!

Our Congregation Participated in CSA

The vegetables came and went for 20 weeks from June to October. Our congregation participated in a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project this summer with Hilltop Hanover Farms which provided fresh vegetables for those who signed up. Thanks to Harry Lewis who coordinated the project!

Christmas Joy Offering

December 17th

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.

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

400 Bedford Road
Pleasantville, New York 10570

914-769-0458
Info@PvillePresby.org
www.PvillePresby.org

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Church News

Global Advent Calendar!

Sign up for the Global Advent Calendar and watch it come alive with images from all over the world as we await the coming of Christmas. Go to AdventWord.org and sign up for the daily Advent Word meditation and respond with an image of your own on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook. Watch the Advent Calendar grow each day!

Thanksgiving Feast and Fellowship!

The turkey was delicious, the vegetables and desserts plentiful as 36 people gathered to give thanks for blessings and friends and to share Thanksgiving dinner. Thanks to all who came, contributed and especially to Marleni Ruano and family.



Christmas Giving Ideas

Looking for a different way to give at Christmas? Here are some ideas to give a gift that makes a difference.

Heifer.org—helps alleviate hunger and poverty through self-reliance and sustainability.

Kiva.org—micro-loans to small businesses to alleviate poverty.

TenThousandVillages.com—sells fair-trade handicrafts made by people in the third world.

RMCA.org—helps migrant workers and their families.

DonorsChoose.org—connects you to classrooms in need.

PCUSA.org—the Presbyterian Hunger Program has specific projects to help alleviate hunger and provide fresh water.

CardsThatGive.org—send Christmas cards that make a difference.

CharityWater.org—funds fresh water projects in developing nations.

GlobalGiving.com—connects donors with community-based projects.

Clip and Save