

February 2016



The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING



Trip to the College Conference in NC

At 5am on Saturday, January 2nd, Bryan Bardin, Cali Bronkema, Kathryn Berg and Shane Willard loaded up and shipped out headed for Montreat, NC and the College Conference. We joined over 1,100 other College students, educators and seminarians for 4 days of worship, conversation and laughter.

While in North Carolina we stayed in a beautiful cabin with "A Million Dollar View" which we shared with a group of 8 from Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center in Florida.

Between keynotes, worship and small groups, we found time to enjoy some "Okie Dokie Barbecue", harass a herd of cows grazing near by, explore a Light Center and their geodesic dome and even do a bit of walking along the creek.

(cont'd on pg. 4)

Pleasantville Immigration Event

Holy Innocents is hosting a presentation by Sr. Arlene Flaherty on U.S. Christians and refugees on Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:30pm. This is a great opportunity for us to consider this subject as a community.

Forgiveness: A Lenten Study

on Tuesday nights

Join us for an in-depth Lenten study on the spiritual practice of *Forgiveness*. Lent is an appropriate time to deepen our understanding by examining both our ability to forgive and our own need for forgiveness.

Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings February 23, March 1, 8, and 15 from 7-8:30pm in the Campbell Room. All are welcome! Please let Linda Berg know if childcare is needed.

Valentine



Fiesta

Saturday

February 13th

7pm

Music ♥ Food

Dancing ♥ Fun!

Bring snacks or soda/juice
to share

*Sponsored by the English
and Spanish classes*

Pastor Debbie on Lent is the Church's Springtime!

Dear Friends in Christ,
One of the joys of following the liturgical calendar as a spiritual practice is be intentional about how we approach the seasons of the church year. What is Lent – and what does it mean to us to participate in the season of Lent?

The church first popularized the season of Lent in the fourth century, as a time traditionally associated with giving things up – fasting and penitence, balanced by giving things to – almsgiving to those in need, and prayer for us and for all people. The idea of giving things up can feel negative – but Lent is not supposed to be negative. It is supposed to be an opportunity. In the words of the Lenten Devotional “Bread and Wine,” “Lent is supposed to be the church’s springtime, a time when, out of the darkness of sin’s winter, a repentant, empowered people emerges...Lent is a time to let go of excuses for failing and shortcomings.... a time to ask God to show us what we really look like.”

Still – facing our need for repentance doesn’t have to feel as if we’ve been deserted. We are always in the presence of the God who so loved the world that Jesus lived, died and rose again in love of us -to overcome all sin, and all separation from God. We are free. And in our freedom, we get to choose again and again to look for Springtime in our lives – and start a brand new day.



For many people the way to celebrate Lent is by adding something to our discipleship journey. A devotional, a Bible study, a way of serving God – all the things that help us see beyond ourselves to a new day in Christ – they are ways to celebrate Lent. You’ll see some opportunities within these pages. If you need more ideas, I’d be glad to point you toward some possibilities that might meet you where you are and help you grow in your faith. What can you say yes to this Lenten season?

In Christ’s Peace,

Pastor Debbie

Volunteer at Children’s Village

Rev. Co Holby is asking for a volunteer to meet with a young male resident who is 11 years old at Children's Village. The timeframe for volunteering would be in the afternoon or early evening or on the weekend. This young man is very familiar with the scriptures for his age but does have difficulty in understanding how to make it work in his life (like the rest of us).

Volunteers need to go through some preliminary administrative procedures. If you are interested, call Rev. Holby at 914-693-0600 Ext. 1273 on Sunday, Tuesday or Wednesday.



Save the Dates

<i>Children’s Sunday</i>	Feb 7
<i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i>	Feb 7
<i>Ash Wednesday Soup Supper & Worship</i>	Feb 10
<i>Valentine Fiesta</i>	Feb 13
<i>Scout Sunday</i>	Feb 14
<i>Lenten Soup Supper</i>	Feb 17
<i>Lenten Study: Forgiveness</i>	Feb 23
<i>Lenten Soup Supper</i>	Feb 24

Looking for Liturgists

Would you like to participate in worship as a liturgist? A liturgist is someone who assists Pastor Debbie in leading worship by reading scripture and various parts of the service.

If you are interested, please contact Kim Lewis at worship@pvillepresby.org.

Preservation of Property News

The Preservation of Property Building Conditions Survey and Feasibility Report of our 4 properties: the Church, the Christian Education Building, The Carriage House and the Manse, was completed in late November. So far, people have contributed \$35,752.88 in anticipation of our Capital Campaign. The Committee met on January 18th to review the recommendations. Stay tuned for further plans.

Church News

Children's Sunday

February 7th

If you ask me, Children's Sunday is one of the most exciting traditions in our church. It's a chance for us to glimpse just what a child-like faith is all about, as our youngest disciples take over and lead us in worship.

This year we are exploring what it means to have a life built on a solid foundation of faith, just like the parable of the House Built on a Rock.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, February 7th at worship!

Valentine Stewardship

February 7th

After our children lead us in worship on February 7th, stop by Fellowship Hall to participate in Valentine Stewardship, sponsored by the Nemecs and our Youth Deacons. The cards and crafts we prepare will be brightening up a church member's Valentine's Day!

Men's Bible Study

Are you interested in attending an evening Men's Bible Study? If so, or if you want to find out more about it and put in your 2 cents, please talk with Roy Meares



Souper Bowl Sunday

February 7th

As the weather has turned cold outside, nothing warms the soul like a steaming bowl of soup and yet, there are people in our own community who go to bed hungry. On Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th, our youth are taking part in the national movement, "Souper Bowl of Caring." So, as you are stocking up for your Super Bowl party...

- buy an extra can of food and bring it to worship to be donated to the Pleasantville Interfaith Food Pantry or
- donate money to our church's Souper Bowl collection which will be used for our church's ongoing effort to feed hungry people in Pleasantville.



Sermons on the Web

pvillepresby.org/sermons

College Conference

(cont'd from pg 1)

When thinking back, Cali Bronkema says the most memorable part was, "the small groups and being able to have really good discussions about faith with people who are going through similar experiences".

Shane Willard's favorite memory was of the two keynote speakers - ex-football center Jason Brown, who talked about his journey away from the NFL to farming and "Pastrix" Nadia Bolz-Weber, who spoke about her experiences leading her new church development, "House for All Sinners and Saints" in Denver, CO.

Although Kathryn (I'm sure) loved the speakers and the small groups, what stands out to her was how beautiful Montreat was and the time spent exploring North Carolina.

Despite the fact that we only began preparing for this trip in November, it was an amazing, transformative experience for all involved, and another example of God working in this church in ways far greater than we dare to dream.

New Deacons & Elders Announced

We welcome our new Elders and Deacons and thank those who are continuing their service. Thanks also to those who just finished their service.

Deacons

Thru 2017: Dylan Bronkema, Logan Bronkema

Thru 2019: Susana Corona, Esther Kim

Elders

Thru 2017: David Fourie, Pamela Mosenthal

Thru 2019: Linda Berg, Catherine Fellows, Barbara Kelly



Scout Sunday

February 14th



Calling all Scouts! Contact Kim Lewis worship@pvillepresby.org if you are a current Scout, if you would like to be listed in the bulletin or be a part of the worship service.

Church News

What Do We Value?

Back in November, the Deacons and Elders of the church met for a Leaders Dinner at the home of Christine Alvis. We enjoyed good food and good fellowship, and ended the evening by brainstorming answers to the question "What do we value as a church community?" We would like to share the responses from that evening to encourage and propel us as we all continue our **Growth Through Faith** in 2016. What do you value?

- Opportunities to learn from other thriving congregations
- Our congregation's diversity and continued growth
- Guiding and leading, our Pastor's inspired leadership
- Our focus on growing and cultivating leadership through Elder/Deacon retreats and community get-togethers
- Internships (Social Justice) and....more to come
- Youth Groups
- Mission projects, large and small
- Finding avenues to help individuals serve in different ways
- Hands on, bite-sized intergenerational mission (i.e. creating the food bags at Stewardship Fair)
- Food security mission in our Pleasantville community
- Learning how to reach out to people to find new places for them to participate
- Communicating baptisms! They are well attended celebrations, an opportunity to share the joy
- Our willingness to discover new places to invite people in
- Our "welcomingness", people often say they feel "at home" when they come to our church
- Invitational outreach, for example, our postcard mailings that announce special times in the life of our church
- Our Sunday School program, Great Beginnings, (our nursery school), our Youth Director, our children
- The way we maintain a balance between tradition and new things
- The grace people give each other

Stewardship and Special Offerings Update

We are pleased to report that we have 8 new pledgers this year. Nearly 50% of all promises pledged "stepped up" over last year, a total increase of 5%.

In 2015, One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, The Peace and Global Witness, Thanksgiving and Christmas Joy Offerings raised a combined \$3,656. 25% of the Peace and Global Witness Offering (\$233.75) was retained to support our Youth Social Justice Internship program here at Pleasantville Presbyterian as was 40% (\$272.40) of the Pentecost Offering.

Navigating Transitions Discussion Group Continues

The "Navigating Transitions" discussion group continued to meet in January and is planning to meet again on a Friday evening later in February. We gather in a group member's home to share our experiences of transition and provide support, encouragement, and inspiration to each other. Keep an eye out for the date to be announced. All are welcome - please speak with Linda Berg if you'd like to join us or host the group.

Coming in March Preparing for Holy Week

Join us as we prepare ourselves for Holy Week with a two-part Adult Ed class on Sundays after worship. Class will held on Sunday, March 6th and Sunday, March 13th from 11:30 - 12:30pm in the Campbell Room. The first week, we will focus on the *Sacraments*. The second week, we will focus on *Forgiveness*, a mini-version of our more in-depth Tuesday evening study. All are welcome - please let Linda Berg know if childcare is needed.

Rummage Sale April 29th & 30th



Mark your calendar
Gather your stuff
Tell your friends!



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Sunday, Feb 7

Souperbowl of Caring - bring non-perishable food items or a donation to worship for our Souperbowl of Caring collection.

Superbowl Activities & Party

Middle School: 12 - 2pm at the church for lunch and games
High School: 6pm at the Corona's House (191 Willis Ave.)

Wednesday, Feb 10

Ash Wednesday - join us for the service at the Lutheran Church

Sunday, Feb 14

No PYC - enjoy your winter break!

Sunday, Feb 21

Soup making - we will be cooking soup to serve at the Lenten Soup Supper.

High School: 6:00 - 8:00pm

Sunday, Feb 28

Youth Group and Chill - as things with the play are heating up, come to youth group to chill out.

High School: 6:00 - 8:00pm

Sunday, March 6

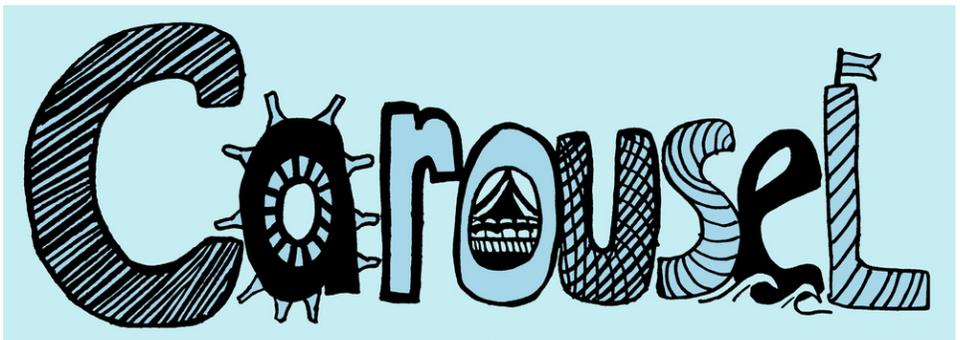
Pleasantville High School Play - come see *Carousel* presented by the Pleasantville High School.



Join us for an awesome February

February kicks off was a bang! February 7th is Super Bowl Sunday at youth group, with the Middle School Youth Group enjoying lunch and games after church and the High School Youth Group watching the big game. But be sure to join us in the morning at worship and help with our Souperbowl of Caring collection by bringing in canned food or a financial donation.

Then we will mark the coming of Lent with an Ash Wednesday Service at Emmanuel Lutheran Church and weekly Wednesday Soup Suppers. The Youth Group will even prepare some soup to share.

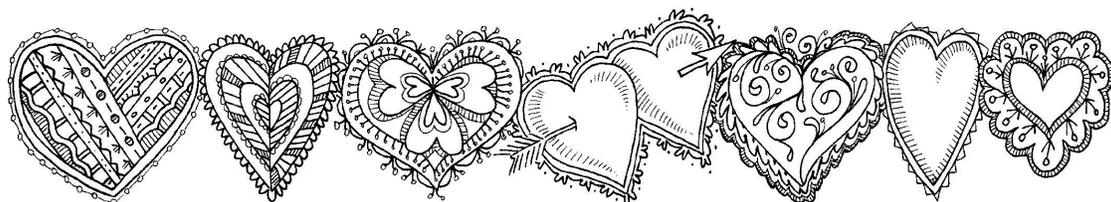


We will meet at the church at 1:30pm and head out shortly there after. If you want to join us, RSVP to Bryan by February 21, we need an accurate ticket count!

And congrats to everyone working so hard to make this happen!

FEbruary

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	1 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 914-426- 0886	2 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women’s Bible Fwshp	3 7:30pm Evening Women’s Bible Study	4	5	6
7 <i>Children’s Sunday</i> <i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Intergenerational Worship 10am Childcare 11:15am Mission Mtg. 4:30pm Jr. High Youth Group 6pm Sr. High Youth Group	8 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 914-426- 0886	9 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women’s Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Session Mtg.	10 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 6:30pm Lenten Soup Supper/Worship Emanuel Lutheran	11 1pm E&M Mtg.	12 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	13 1pm Memorial Svc. 7pm Valentine’s Fiesta
14 <i>Valentine’s Day</i> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare/Sunday School 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6pm Sr. High Youth Group	15 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 914-426- 0886	16 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women’s Bible Fwshp	17 6:30pm Lenten Soup Supper /Worship Holy Innocents 7:30pm Evening Women’s Bible Study	18	19 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	20
21 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare/Sunday School 11:15am Youth Council Mtg. 6pm Sr. High Youth Group	22 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 914-426- 0886	23 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women’s Bible Fwshp 7pm Adult Ed. – Lenten Study “Forgiveness”	24 7:30pm Evening Women’s Bible Study	25	26 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	27
28 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare/Sunday School 11:15am Deacon’s Meeting 3pm PWL Special Event 6pm Sr. High Youth Group	29 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 914-426- 0886	<i>Lent</i> BEGINS				



Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

400 Bedford Road
Pleasantville, New York 10570

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

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 7038
White Plains, NY

Return Service
Requested

Ecumenical Lenten Soup Supper & Worship

Each Wednesday in Lent



Supper - 6:30pm

Worship - 7:15pm

FEBRUARY DATES

February 10th - Ash Wednesday Emanuel Lutheran

February 17th Holy Innocents

February 24th TBD

•
If you are interested in making soup for when our church hosts, please let Barb Loizeaux know.
•

Families with children are encouraged to attend!