



# The Good News Letter

## Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING



### Presbyterian Women Bring Us Great Music!

The Broadway music was wafting through the sanctuary on January 21st, as the Presbyterian Women hosted the Scarborough Singers led by Nell Macdonald. The selection of music from great Broadway shows was wonderful and the singers were terrific. Thanks to all who made this happen!

### Lenten Study “Way of Life”

Join us Sundays after worship in the Campbell Room (11:30am-12:30pm) for *Way of Life*, our 4-week Lenten study. This video and book study is based on *The Great Spiritual Migration* by Brian McLaren. and engages us in new spiritual, theological, and missional understandings that are reshaping the practice of faith and helping Christianity become more Christian.

The study will start on Sunday, February 25th and continue on March 4th, 11th, and 18th. Participant guides are available (\$9) - please let Jo Anna know by February 15th if you'd like one ordered for you.

### Thanks to Maria!

Join us on February 11th as we celebrate Maria Murerwa for her work as our Youth Director this past year. Maria has finished her classes, and at the end of February finishes her time with us. Maria is looking forward to the next steps on her journey, which will bring her closer to her vision of working in the humanitarian field.

We are thankful for the ministry she has done among us, and the relationships she has built along the way, and plan to continue to be connected with her as she goes forward. The Christian Education team and the Youth Council will continue to serve our children and youth.

We look forward to celebrating in Fellowship Hall after Children's Sunday for cake and good wishes.

### Men...Save the Date

*Saturday, March 10th*



We are happy to report that there is interest in reviving the **Men's Breakfast**. In case you don't know the history, the Men's Breakfast started several decades ago as a way for the men in our congregation to have their own fellowship. Breakfast was served around 7:30am and either an invited speaker or a discussion followed.

Please join us at 7:30am on March 10th for breakfast and to have a discussion about whether we want to revive the tradition and what we want it to look like. Please speak to Pono Wong or Mark Zarick for more information, and if you plan to attend, please RSVP to Mark Zarick at [info@pvillepresby.org](mailto:info@pvillepresby.org).

## A Lenten Poem from Pastor Debbie

Dear Friends in Christ,  
This poem by Ann Weems, from her book *Kneeling in Jerusalem* invites us to move in the church year from Christmas and Epiphany, to Lent. For our family – it's often appropriate, as the lights of Christmas are always hard for us to put away.

### Put Away the Tinsel

When Lent comes,  
    you have to put away the tinsel;  
you have to take down your Christmas tree,  
    and stand out in the open...vulnerable,  
You either are or you aren't.  
You either believe or you don't.  
You either will or you won't.  
And, O Lord, how we love the stable and the star!  
When Lent comes the angels' voices  
    begin their lamenting,  
and we find ourselves in a courtyard  
    where we must answer  
whether we know him or not.

Lent is an opportunity to let ourselves consider what Jesus means to us, and how it makes a difference in our lives that we follow him. May we each consider deeply how we want to let the questions move in us this year.

*In Christ's Peace,*

*Pastor Debbie*

## New Church Leaders Announced

### Deacons

#### Through January 2019

Logan Brokema  
Susana Corona  
Cordelia Jannetty  
Esther Kim  
Karen Kim

#### Through January 2020

Scott Mosenthal

#### Through January 2021

John Leslie  
Marion Leslie  
David Smutzler

### Elders

#### Through January 2019

Linda Berg  
Cathy Fellows  
David Fourie  
Barb Kelly

#### Through January 2020

Kathy Brown  
Nicole Browand  
Gary Dieckman  
Kim Kleman Lewis

#### Through January 2021

Steve Berg  
Charles Titterton  
Michelle Torosian  
Mark Zarick

**Nominating Committee for 2018:** Jenny London and Pam Mosenthal  
(Jenny and Pam are congregational representatives)



## Save the Dates

<i>Evening Rhythms</i>	Feb 3
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	Feb 4
<i>Souperbowl of Caring</i>	Feb 4
<i>Children's Sunday</i>	Feb 11
<i>Valentine Stewardship</i>	Feb 11
<i>Celebrate Maria!</i>	Feb 11
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Feb 14
<i>Soup Supper &amp; Worship</i>	
<i>Soup Supper &amp; Worship</i>	Feb 21
<i>Soup Supper &amp; Worship</i>	Feb 28
<i>Films on Purpose</i>	March 1

## Looking for an Apartment

Grace Kim, her husband and young daughter are looking for a 2 bedroom apartment in Pleasantville or surrounding towns. If you know of one, please talk with her at worship or email [info@pvillepresby.org](mailto:info@pvillepresby.org).

## Got a Piano or Keyboard?

A local family needs a small piano or electric piano for lessons and practice. Do you have a piano to donate or know of where we can find one? Please talk with Dave Macdonald.



# Church News

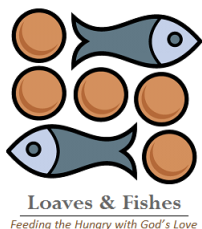
## Evening Rhythms

*Relax. Reflect. Recharge.*

**Saturday, February 3rd at 5pm**

Join us for soothing, contemporary music and a time to pause from your busy life. Invite a friend or neighbor!

### Loaves and Fishes Continues to Reach Out



The Loaves and Fishes Program continues to provide food to our "sister" congregation, The Assembly of God which meets at the Methodist Church. We recently had a meeting with Pastor Enrique and his wife who want the congregation to know how much they and their congregation appreciate your generosity.

We discussed ways to make improvements in meeting their needs. One was to try to obtain more fresh and frozen staples which we have been able to do through the Foodbank for Westchester. We have purchased frozen chickens, turkeys, fish and even blueberries. We are also getting fresh eggs, cheese and yogurt. Two years ago at Christmas, our congregation provided toiletries and cleaning items. Pastor Enrique expressed his congregation's appreciation for these costly items and asked whether we could accommodate this need again.

We have decided to focus on one of these items per month during the year. I would ask that when you are at the store, to remember our sister congregation especially since it is winter and many of them are seasonal workers. For the month of **February**, please think about buying an extra bottle of **laundry detergent**. Giant sizes are fine but smaller bottles are more practical. Again, thank you for your generosity and stay tuned for our next request in March...spoiler alert...think teeth.

*by Jane Wong*

### Mission Outreach Coordinator

We are happy to announce that Jane Wong, who has been resourcing our churches Loaves and Fishes ministry, is adding an additional day a week to her journey with us, as of January 1, 2018.

Her role will be to help us as we reach out locally and within our congregation. This need for a facilitator/coordinator became clear as we looked into our church's future and heard both a desire to connect better with each other as an intergenerational group and to reach outside our walls to those who are seeking the spiritual connection we believe we can point them toward. You'll hear more from Jane in 2018!

### Appalachia Service Project (ASP) Makes Plans

Thanks to all who came to the ASP Shareholders dinner on January 28th. It was great to hear about the 2017 trip. Now it's time to plan for our 2018 trip when our congregation and community members travel to Appalachia to make houses "warmer, safer and drier." This summer's trip is...

**West Virginia**  
**Saturday, July 14 to**  
**Sunday, July 22, 2018**

Many applications are already in, and space is limited, but if you are interested to see if there is room for you (as a youth or adult), please contact Gail Zarick [asp@pvillepresby.org](mailto:asp@pvillepresby.org). There is additional information on our church website.



# Church News

ASH WEDNESDAY

**Ecumenical Worship &  
Soup Supper**  
Wednesday,  
February 14th  
Emanuel Lutheran Church  
6:30pm

## Ecumenical Lenten Soup Suppers

Each year during Lent, our congregation gathers with the other Pleasantville churches for fellowship and worship.

Please come on Wednesdays during Lent for a delicious soup supper, followed by a time of worship to reflect on the season. Supper will begin at 6:30pm and worship at 7:15pm and travels from church to church. We will begin on Ash Wednesday at Emanuel Lutheran Church.

Look for additional details soon in the Sunday bulletin or on our church website's calendar.

If you are interested in making soup or bringing bread when our church is the host, please let Barb Loizeaux know.



## Celebrate Children's Sunday

February 11th

Children's Sunday is one of the most exciting traditions in our church. It's an opportunity for us to see God through child-like faith as our youngest disciples take over and lead us in worship. This year our theme explores "Celebrating God's Family". We look forward to seeing you on Children's Sunday, February 11th. You will be amazed!



## Valentine Stewardship

February 11th

After worship on February 11th, stop by Fellowship Hall to participate in Valentine Stewardship. The cards and crafts we prepare will be brightening up a church member's Valentine's Day! All ages welcome... come create!

## Rummage Sale

April 20th & 21st

Mark your  
calendar

Gather your  
stuff

Tell your  
friends



## Time for Pre-School Registration

Great Beginnings, our church's pre-school, is currently registering 2½, 3, and 4 year-olds for the September 2018 class. Spread the word. Families who attend our church receive a tuition discount. Not only is this a great program for the little ones, it is also a great way to introduce families to our church.

Brochures and registration forms are available on the blue bookshelf in the CE wing or for more information call Ruth Fischer at 914-773-0414.

## Congregational Meeting

February 4th

Come to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation following worship on Sunday, February 4th.

- You can hear about the committees and organizations of the church and read the 2017 Annual Report.
- The 2018 budget will be presented along with the recommendations of the Nominating Committee.

It's a great way to find out what's going on in the congregation and learn how God is leading us. You can ask questions about programs, finances and get an idea of what's ahead. All are invited!

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Faith, fun, fellowship and friends, with a bit of mission mixed in. February 2018

## Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Evening Rhythms

Saturday 5:00 pm

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

## February 4<sup>th</sup>

### Super Bowl at the Corona's House

5-8:00 pm Jr. & Sr. High

Super bowl of caring and festivities. All youth are invited to celebrate game day with us at the Corona's home. Bring a can of food to donate to the food bank.

## February 11<sup>th</sup>

### Celebrate Valentine's Day

5-7 Jr. High Youth Grp.

6-8 Pm Sr. High Youth Grp.

Make something for your valentine ☺

## February 18<sup>th</sup>

No Youth Group-Winter recess-19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>

## February 25<sup>th</sup>

### Intergenerational: Luau Party

Invite your family and friends for a fun evening with our church family. Games, food and more ☺

Sign up with Maria to bring a dish!

5-8:00pm Jr. & Sr. High



## Challenge World Hunger with Us This Super Bowl - Feb. 4th

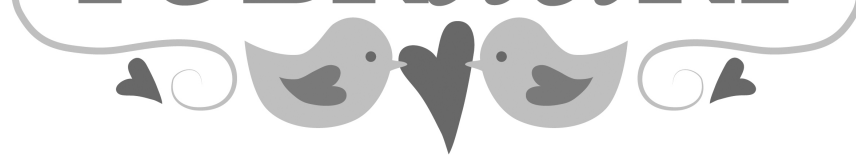
More than 28 years ago, the Super Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: *"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."*

We will be collecting dollars in honor of the super bowl, all the donations will go to Loaves and Fishes a ministry here at our church that works to provide food to the hungry in our community. Do your part to tackle hunger!

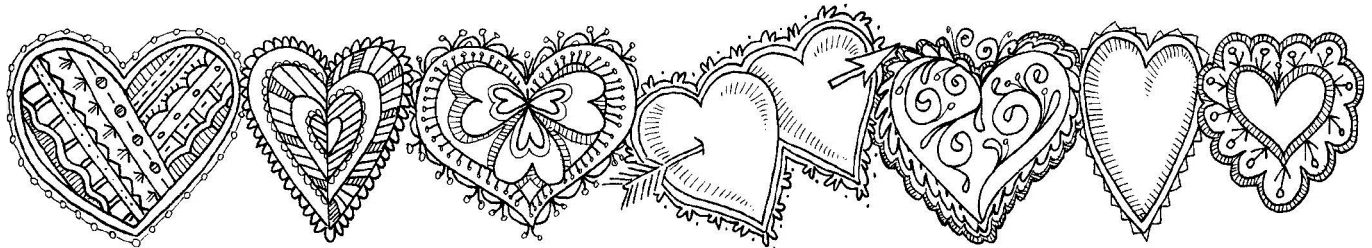
## Intergenerational: Luau Party - Feb.25

All are welcome, Invite your family and friends for a fun evening with our church family. Games, food and more. Bring something that makes you think of Hawaii.

# FEBRUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm	2 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	3 5pm Evening Rhythms
4 8:45am Chancel Choir Practice 10am Intergenerational Worship Childcare in the Nursery 11am Annual Mtg. Congregation 5pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth Grp. - souper Bowl of caring - off-site	5	6 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	7 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible	8 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm	9 6pm English Class - Campbell Rm.	10
11 <i>Children's Sunday</i> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11am Valentine Stewardship 5pm Jr. High Youth Group 6pm Sr. High Youth Group 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12	13 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Session Mtg. 7:30pm Bell Choir	14 Ash Wednesday 6:30pm Lenten Soup supper/Worship Emanuel Lutheran	15 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm.	16 6pm English Class - Campbell Rm.	17
18 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery	19	20 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	21 6:30pm Lenten Soup supper/Worship 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible	22 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm.	23 6pm English Class - Campbell Rm.	24
25 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:30am Lenten Study 5pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth Grp - Luau Party	26	27 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	28 6:30pm Lenten Soup supper/Worship 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible	29		





## Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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## News About our Youth

### Cali Bronkema Attends Conference

The weekend of January 6th, I was blessed to have the opportunity to attend a conference on the future of youth ministry. This conference



stressed the importance of building developmental relationships across generations within the church community. These relationships are strengthened by expressing care, challenging each other to grow, providing support, sharing power and expanding possibilities.

As we approach a new age of youth ministry and culture, it is forming these relationships that can strengthen our community.

As this new year starts, **I invite us all to think about faith relationships that have influenced our lives, and how we can reach out and form relationships with our children and youth.**

Whether it's showing up to a basketball game, sending a birthday card, asking how a test went, or congratulating someone on a performance, I encourage us all to take these small steps that could lead to a developmental relationship.

*by Cali Bronkema*

### Youth Group Reunion

We had an exciting evening at Youth Group on January 7th, a coming together of past and present. The middle and high schoolers



were joined by college kids that used to participate in Youth Group at our church. Everyone had a great time getting to know each other, playing games, and eating good food, though the real fun was had during cake decorating.

In two teams, boys versus girls, the kids competed to decorate a cake in any way they wanted. The boy's team had quite the showing with their panda bear.



But the girls won the judges over with their tiered cake with waterfall decoration. Huge thank you to Kat and Greg Nemeck!

*by Kathryn Berg*