



The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING

Pot Luck Supper & Intergenerational Learning

February 28th

Want an opportunity for a delicious pot luck supper and interesting learning? On Thursday, February 28th we will be hosting our first intergenerational learning opportunity and pot luck supper. We will eat together and then choose which one of three "classes" you would like to attend.

- Pastor Debbie will lead a group in **writing as a spiritual practice**
- Hannah will teach people a bit about **vegan cooking** and
- Skyler will have a group discussing **sustainability**.

Join us for fellowship, bring a friend and learn something new! Look for a sign-up sheet in the foyer.



Come to the Community Dinner

Every Thursday, 6pm

On Thursday, December 20th we held our first Community Dinner. About fifteen people gathered together to have some delicious soup and great conversation. In these divisive times we wanted to create a space for church members and others to find sanctuary; to gather together, share a meal and meet others.

Our plan is to host a dinner at 6pm every Thursday from now on. It is free and open to anyone who wants to join in. We would very much appreciate if you would call to let us know you're coming so we can prepare enough food. Please call Skyler or Jane at 914-769-0459 X3 by Tuesday of that week.

"Remembering our Past Through Christian Theology"

Adult Ed

February 17, 24, and March 3

In this study, we will be looking at some of the major developments in Christian theology through the lens of some of the most notable Christian Creeds (such as the Nicene, Chalcedon, Apostles Creed). We will be asking questions such as:

- How did the idea of the Trinity emerge in Christian history?
- What was so important about the two natures of Christ to early Christians?
- Why was it important to the developing church that there be "heretical" and "orthodox" forms of theology?
- What was going on during the Patristic period that made it necessary to define the nature of divine grace?

For more information, reach out to Hannah at

hannah@pvillepresby.org

Solar Energy Comes to Pleasantville Presbyterian

We are excited to announce the solar panel array on the roof of the CE Building supplying energy to both the sanctuary and the CE Building is now up and running! We have 115 panels, a system size of 37.6 kilowatts (kW) producing an estimated 44,206 kilowatt hours (kWh) per



year. The panels and the inverters (that convert the solar power to electricity) have a 20-25 year warranty. We are grateful that we can be a leader in our community bringing environmental awareness to all. Thanks to everyone who worked to accomplish this project.

"Love each other as I have loved you."
JOHN 15:12, NIV

Pastor Debbie on Asking for a Spiritual Coat

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?
Psalm 42:1-2

Dear Friends in Christ,

So it's freezing today as I write this note to you. As cold as I can ever remember it being. Yet outside in the hallway a very adorable three-year-old is telling his Dad that he doesn't need a coat – because he's not cold – he's never cold.

It seems that three-year-olds are endowed with a sense of stubborn independence, that doesn't want to want or need anything. And I feel as though that is one part of being three that most of us don't totally outgrow. Too often we don't want to need anything, physically, emotionally, mentally – we want to be independent. To be okay on our own.

So finding our way to be spiritually interdependent might be a lot harder than we want to admit. To know that we need God – that our soul's get thirsty for God – is this something you find easy to say to yourself – or is our spiritual need as difficult to accept as our other needs?

This year – we are blessed with a longer season of epiphany – because Easter is late in April. That means more time to consider how the light of Christ is trying to light up our lives – to become aware of the leadings of the Spirit of God, as they show us new ways to be in our world.

May we open ourselves up to hear our own soul's discovering what they need – and give them the soul food they are looking for.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Debbie

Preserve Our Property Update

First, a little trip back through history. The cornerstone for our church was laid on November 2, 1880. We held our first public worship on July 17, 1881 (now in our 138th year). The Church building has been rebuilt and enlarged three times, and in 1923, the orientation of the sanctuary went from the eastern side of the building (where you can still see the Rose Window from the outside) to the present day southern side.

In our recent history, we have made major capital improvements and additions about every 10 years. The CE building was built in 1963, and the Carriage House was refurbished in the late 60's. In the 70's our sanctuary was redesigned and refurbished, including relocation of the organ. In 1980, Mrs. Wallace (Reader's Digest) donated capital to rebuild that organ. Sanctuary roof and ceiling repairs along with the installation of ceiling fans took place in the 80's. The 90's saw the replacement of the heating system. In the early 2000's we replaced the kitchen and renovated Fellowship Hall, our foyer and the Manse. In 2010 we completed a new roof on the Sanctuary.

(cont'd on pg. 4)



Save the Dates

Men's Breakfast	Feb 2
Souper Bowl of Caring	Feb 3
Annual Meeting	Feb 3
Children's Sunday	Feb 10
Confirmation Meeting	Feb 10
Valentine Baking	Feb 17
Adult Ed	Feb 17
Adult Ed	Feb 24
Potluck & Intergenerational Learning	Feb 28

Come to the Annual Meeting

February 3rd

Come to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation following worship on Sunday, February 3rd. Come hear about the committees and organizations of the church, read the 2018 Annual Report, you can review the 2019 budget and hear the recommendations of the Nominating Committee.

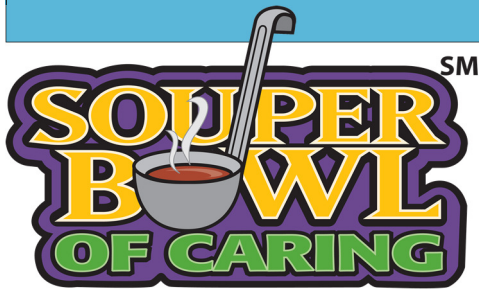
It's a great way to find out what's going on in the congregation and learn how God is leading us. You can ask questions about programs, finances and get an idea of what's ahead. All are invited!



Sermons on the Web

pvillepresby.org/sermons

Church News



February 3rd

As the weather has turned cold outside, nothing warms the body and soul like a steaming bowl of soup, and yet there are people in our very own community who go to bed hungry.

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 3rd, 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 with a few extra dollars for our church's Souper Bowl collection. All the donations will go to help those in our community who don't have soup for their bowls.

Save the Rummage Dates!

May 3rd & 4th

Our annual Rummage Sale is coming! Mark your calendars now. Reserve the week of April 28th, or at least a part of it, as many workers are needed to have a successful sale. Start saving your stuff!

Rummage Recycling Request

Now that many towns are banning plastic bags we need to start collecting these bags immediately. Please bring your bags to church instead of returning them to the grocery store. Look for a collection bin in the foyer.



Children's Sunday... Creation Care

February 10th

Please join us for Children's Sunday at 10am on Sunday, February 10th. The theme this year is "Creation Care," with a focus on how we are called to be stewards of God's earth. The worship service is designed and led by the children and youth with special music, readings, reflection, and praise. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Sunday School Spreads the Love by Baking

All children are invited to bake Valentine's cookies with their Sunday School teachers during the service on February 17th (in place of usual Sunday school). All materials and ingredients will be provided. The cookies will then be given to people in our congregation who are either shut in or need to feel some love from our kids.

Preserve our Property *(cont'd from pg. 3)*

If you have been around Pleasantville Presbyterian lately, you will have seen improvements both inside and outside in all four of our properties (Be sure to attend the Annual Meeting on February 3rd to hear more). We are a central hub in our community serving over 1,000 people each week in our buildings. We are grateful for your pledges and donations to POP. Thank you to all who are contributing to the care of our beautiful and historic home. Please see Christine Alvis for more information or if you need a reminder about your pledge for 2019.



Confirmation Class Informational Meeting for participants and their parents

*Sunday, February 10th
(note date change)
After worship*

If you can't attend the meeting, but are interested, please let Pastor Debbie know.

Pre-School Registration Begins

Great Beginnings, our church's pre-school, is currently registering 2½, 3, and 4 year olds for September 2019. Spread the word. Not only is this a great program for the little ones, it is also a great way to introduce families to our church because church families receive a tuition discount.

Brochures and registration forms are available on the blue bookshelf in the CE wing or for more information you can reach Ruth Fischer, the Director, at 769-0826 or www.great-beginnings.org.

Youth Group News

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

Super bowl Party!

Following our survey, we learned that there was large interest in holding a Super bowl party on February 3! So that's just what we'll do! Keep an eye on your emails for details!

New Youth Group Covenant – Recently, the Pastoral Associates have created a Pleasantville Presbyterian Youth Group covenant. We wanted to provide the Church, youth leaders, youth, and their parents with a common, positive vision for what we're about at youth group. We will be sending copies of the covenant home with your youth to sign and bring back. We ask that parents look it over with their youth so that everyone knows about who we are and what we do at youth group 😊

First Parent Meet-up – Active Pleasantville community members and parents of former Pleasantville youth groupers, **Kat and Greg Nemeč**, are extending an invite to all youth group parents to join them and some other parents of former youth groupers for an informal wine and cheese night at their house from **5-7pm on Sunday, February 10 (during youth group)**. We see this as a time where you - current youth group parents - can have the opportunity to chat with each other and with parents of older kids. Our hope is simply to connect people in our community who are experiencing raising middle school and high schoolers with people who have gone through similar experiences in the past. The Nemeč house is steps away from the church, so feel free to park at the church and walk on over. Please RSVP to Kat at Kat@studiokatinc.com

Questions? Comments? Just want to say hi?

Contact your Associates!
katelyn@pvillepresby.org
skyler@pvillepresby.org
hannah@pvillepresby.org

February Schedule
2/3/19- Superbowl party and dinner, thanks to Beth McGinley
2/10/19 - Parent Meet Up at the Nemeč's and youth group games and dinner thanks to Nicole Browand
2/17/19 – Games and dinner, thanks to Stefania Fortier
2/24/19 - Games and dinner, thanks to Nicole Browand

Church News

February Men's Breakfast Gary Dieckman on the USS Slater

Please join us on February 2nd at 7:30am in the Campbell Room for a presentation from Gary Dieckman about one of his passions, the USS Slater. The Slater is a WWII Destroyer Escort that has been lovingly restored and maintained by volunteers (including Gary) in Albany. Gary will share a slide show and discuss the ship, and hopefully his Navy career. Please RSVP to either Mark Zarick (men@pvillepresby.org) or the Church Office so we can size the "gourmet" menu.



Thanks for Your Help with the Rios Family

During the Mexican earthquake in 2017, the wife of Victor Rios was killed by falling walls. Our congregation was invited by the Coronas, close friends of the Rios family, to make donations to help with the expenses and show love and support. Thanks to the generosity of many, we were able to do both. Last month, during a service, Martha Rios, Victor's sister, expressed the appreciation of her nephews and her niece for the help and love sent to their father. It has been over a year since these siblings were left without a mom, but as you can see, they are trying to keep going, together facing the hardships of a country with many challenges. Thanks to everyone who donated.



Men's Bible Study Continues to Grow

With faith, our Bible Study continues to grow. Men are finding this weekly time as an opportunity to openly discuss ideas and questions that are raised from our readings. Guys, give it a try! Join us on any Tuesday in the Campbell Room at 7:30pm.

Women's Bible Fellowship Studies Miracles

Have you ever thought about if miracles happen today? How are the miracles in the Bible different than ones we might see today? These are some of the questions that the women in the morning Bible Fellowship have been asking. Our study is called "Miracles: Signs of God's Glory" and it takes us to the Bible and asks us how they might apply to our lives today.

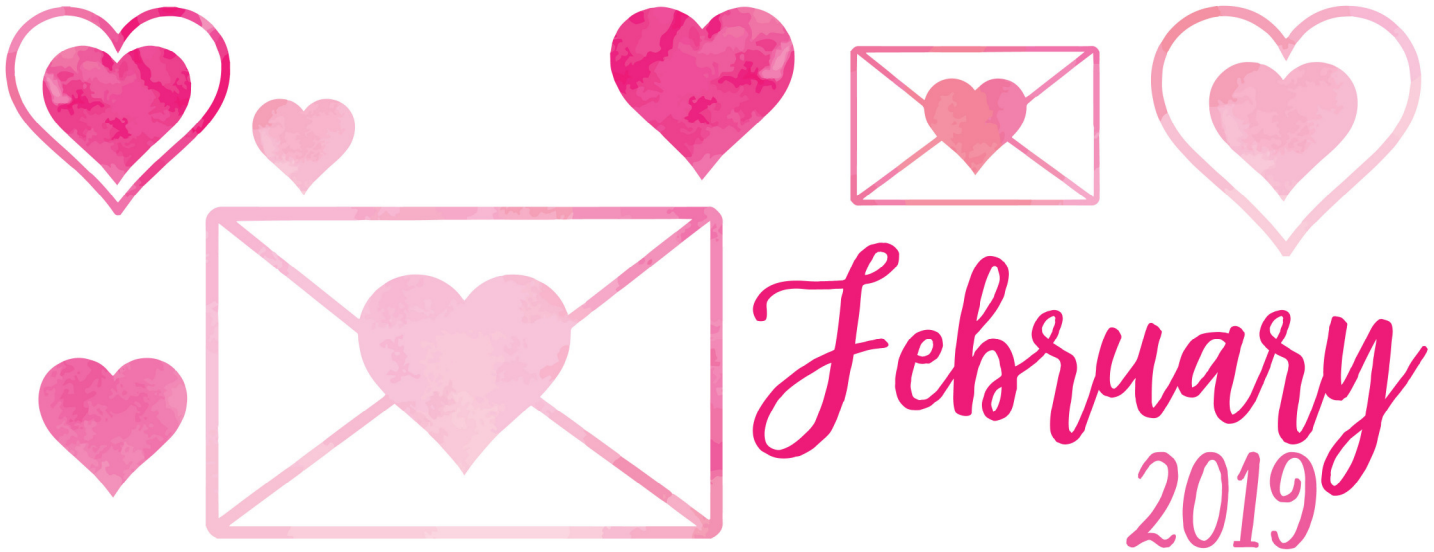
Please consider joining in on Tuesday mornings 10-11:30am in the Campbell Room.

Presbyterian Women's Retreat

*Ash Wednesday
March 6th*

**Stony Point Center
Stony Point, NY**

More info to follow



<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 - Campbell Rm	2 7:30am Men's Bkfst
3 <i>Continuation of Annual Mtg.</i> <i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i> 8:45am Chancel Choir Practice 10am Intergenerational Worship Childcare in the Nursery 5pm Youth Group	4	5 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Men's Bible Fellowship	6 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	7 6pm Community Dinner 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm	8 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm	9
10 <i>Children's Sunday</i> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Confirmation Mtg. 5pm Youth Group 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11	12 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Men's Bible Fellowship	13 7:30pm Session Mtg.	14 6pm Community Dinner 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm	15	16
17 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Childcare in the Nursery 11:30am Adult Ed. 5pm Youth Grp	18	19 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Men's Bible Fellowship	20 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	21 6pm Community Dinner 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm	22 6pm English Class - Campbell Rm	23
24 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Deacon's Meeting 11:30am Adult Ed. 5pm Youth Group	25	26 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Men's Bible Fellowship	27 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	28 6pm Community Dinner 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm.		

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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God the Taxi Driver

Taxi! Taxi! Taxi!" Everyday we exercise faith in something or someone, without giving it much thought. Why? Because we think we are in control of the situation.

The cab pulls up and we enter. We don't know anything at all about the driver. Do we ask his name or do we take note of the license plate or number of the vehicle? Really! Why go through all that trouble? The cab company took our call and sent the driver. That's good enough.

But here's the thing. Although we don't know anything about the driver, we trust him to take us safely to our destination and if he doesn't know the way, GPS will guide him. So we sit back and relax. That's faith. That is just one of the many situations in our daily life where we place our faith in someone .

Sometimes the ride is not a smooth one. Up ahead traffic is at a standstill. Why? There's been an accident. Delay. Sometimes construction work on the road. Delay. An obstacle in the road, again delay, a detour resulting in a longer journey. Oh, and then that time of the year the state troopers are out in force. Groans...delays. We'll be late but we will get there. That's faith.

How is it with us and our faith in God? To place our faith in God is sometimes hard to do because we are being asked to believe in a God we cannot see and to give control of our lives and plans to Him.

But the Bible says "*He that cometh to God must believe that He is.*"(Heb 55:⁰); and "*Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of*

God."(Romans54:5¹) To come to that place of faith, we have to believe the word of God. Various scriptures encourage us to believe in God. Let us look at a few more here: "*For He hath said, I will never leave you or forsake you.*"(Hebrews 57:9) "*And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken to him and he went his way.*"(John 8:94) "*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return to me void.*"(Isaiah 55:11) "*I am the way, the truth and the life.*"(John 14:6) "*In the world you shall have tribulations: but be of good cheer I have overcome the world.*"(John 16:33)



I know the way. You can place your faith in me. I'll take you there safely all the way up to heaven. Gates of pearls and streets of gold. How about that? Hallelujah! Wow!

In the words of a song:

*Got any rivers you think are uncrossable
Got any mountains you cannot tunnel through.
God specializes in things thought impossible
He'll do for you what no other one can do.*

Roadblock, obstacles, detours, delays in your life? Turn it over to God. Remember... that with God all things are possible. (Matthew 19:26) Why not let God be your cab driver? You will certainly get the ride of your life.

By Pearl Campbell
Spring 2013

Giving honor to the Holy Spirit

Editor's note: Pearl was a beloved member of our