



The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING

We Celebrate our New Members!



(L to R) Nicole Browand, Nate Browand, Roy Meares & Karen Kim
(see article on back page)

Children's Sunday

On February 7th, our Sunday School classes led us in worship and what a joyous sight it was! In the month leading up to Children's Sunday, our Sunday School classes explored the story of the "house built on a rock" and how God calls us to build our lives on a sure foundation. It's amazing to see all the ways our church encourages people to build their life on a solid foundation of Faith.



Forgiveness: A Lenten Study

Tuesday nights

Join us for a four week in-depth Lenten study on the spiritual practice of *Forgiveness*. Lent is an excellent time to deepen our understanding by examining both our ability to forgive and our own need for forgiveness. Postponed by February's weather, our study kicks off on Tuesday March 1st from 7-8:30pm in the Campbell Room. Remaining sessions will be held on March 8, 15 and 22 - same time and place. All are welcome! Please let Linda Berg know if childcare is needed.

Congregational Ministry Summit 2016!

On Saturday, March 19th, we're inviting everyone to come and hear more about the exciting ministries we're kicking off this year. This is a new version of our former Leadership Retreat and we invite everyone to come who is interested.

Plan to gather for devotion in the sanctuary at 9:30am, then move to hear and share about new ideas/programs designed to reach out to our local community and beyond. We'll conclude our day with a Celebration Lunch and finish around 1pm. You'll be hearing more soon! Childcare will be provided.

“We Pray This Day”

O God, we pray this day:
 for all who have a song they cannot sing,
 for all who have a burden they cannot bear,
 for all who live in chains they cannot break,
 for all who wander homeless and cannot return,
 for those who are sick and for those who tend them,
 for those who wait for loved ones
 and wait in vain,
 for those who live in hunger
 and for those who will not share their bread,
 for those who are misunderstood
 and for those who misunderstand,
 for those who are captives and for those who are captors,
 for those whose words of love are locked within their hearts
 and for those who yearn to hear those words.

Have mercy upon these, O God.
 Have mercy upon us all.

Kneeling in Jerusalem
 By Ann Weems

Reserve an Easter Lily

On Easter Sunday, the sanctuary will be adorned with lilies which have been ordered by members of our church family. Please place your order by Sunday, **March 13th** by completing this form and sending it to the church office.

Please reserve ____ Easter Lily(s) for me at the cost of \$15 each.

____ In memory of _____

____ In honor of _____

____ To the glory of God

- Amount attached _____
- Please pick up your plant after worship.

(Please write your check to Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, with “Easter Lily” written on the memo line.)

Name _____



Save the Dates

<i>Forgiveness Study</i>	March 1
<i>Soup Supper</i>	March 2
<i>Prepare for Holy Week</i>	March 6
<i>Forgiveness Study</i>	March 8
<i>Soup Supper</i>	March 9
<i>Prepare for Holy Week</i>	March 13
<i>Forgiveness Study</i>	March 15
<i>Soup Supper</i>	March 16
<i>Leadership Retreat</i>	March 19
<i>Palm Sunday</i>	March 20
<i>Forgiveness Study</i>	March 22
<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	March 24
<i>Good Friday</i>	March 25
<i>Easter Sunday</i>	March 27

Church Directories

Photo Directory - Keep your eyes peeled for the new Photo Directory available now. After our initial run, we will be printing the directories in house, which means if you missed our deadline, you can still submit a photo for inclusion in subsequent printings. Talk to Bryan Bardin if you have any questions.

Regular Directory - We’ve just updated our directory with names, addresses and phone numbers. If you’d like to pick one up, stop into the office during the week or on a Sunday.

Family of Abraham Interfaith Program

Thursday, March 10th, 7:30pm

Pleasantville Community
Synagogue

Gabriel Meyer Halevy
with Horatio Martinez

*Songs and stories and conversations from a
broad spectrum of global faiths and cultures.*

Church News

Women's Brunch

Saturday, April 16th
9:30 - 11am

Sarah Henkel
Speaker

Save the date!

Women & girls of all ages are
invited to attend

EVBS Dates

The Pleasantville Ecumenical Vacation Bible School this summer will be held **August 8th - 12th** at St. John's Episcopal Church. If you'd like to participate, talk to Anel Fourie or Bryan Bardin.

Social Justice Intern Update

The Social Justice Internship Program at the church is gearing up for another amazing semester. We are still in the early planning phases but anticipating a very exciting trip to the UN and conversations around human rights issues like food justice or the refugee crisis.

Sunday School Students Strive to Stop Hunger in Pleasantville

This year our Sunday School Stewardship Giving is going to our church's hunger ministries right here in Pleasantville. Thanks to the contributions from our Sunday School students and the Souper Bowl of Caring collection, we have collected \$542.90.

We are excited to see how this money is used by our church's new and existing hunger programs. Be sure to stay tuned as more information comes out about our upcoming hunger ministries.

Rummage...Help Others & Have Fun Too!

Rummage will be here before you know it so this is a perfect time to find items that are still usable, but you know longer want. Reserve the drop off dates **April 24-26** and sale dates **April 29 and 30**. Many workers are needed to move and sell our mountain of stuff and day, evening, and weekend shifts are available. Rummage is a major supporter of our church-at-home and local mission projects and many people depend on our Rummage Sale for their clothing and household needs. Both part-time and full-time workers are welcome, so come and bring a friend!

Here are some helping opportunities!

- Pre-Rummage, Friday evening set-up.
- Rummage set-up after church on Sunday.
- Help at lunchtime or coordinate food.
- Enjoy tinkering? Help test and prep the small appliances and electronics.
- Or simply help in any of the rooms that take your fancy.

Will you be part of the Rummage Team this year? Please prayerfully consider if this is the mission God is calling you to do. Talk to Ruth Fischer, leave a message at the church or fill out a helper sign-up slip next month.

Preserve Our Property

Our committee reviewed the architect's report after a full assessment of the church, carriage house and manse. Based on their recommendations we have identified 3 main areas as immediate priorities:

1. Women's bathroom renovation
2. Water entry control project and window restoration
3. Zoning of heating system and centralization of controls

The bathroom will be renovated in July and August while Great Beginnings is on break. We are in the process of obtaining bids to do the work, and eliciting ideas from women (and men!) who may have input to share. This project will be funded from the contributions we have already received. We are exploring the water and heating issues to decide the best pathways to repair and restoration. Our fundraising efforts will be determined as we continue this process. Stay tuned! Any early contributions you wish to offer for the ongoing projects are welcomed, please put "POP" in the memo section of your check or online gift.

The report is available for review. Please see Christine Alvis if you are interested.

Church News

Easter Sunday Happenings

After our Easter worship service everyone is invited to join in the festivities downstairs. We will have a time of crafts and games for our school aged children while our youth prepare for the **Easter Egg-Stravaganza**.

If you would like to donate a dozen plastic eggs filled with goodies, just bring them to church on Easter Sunday. Otherwise, just show up with your Easter basket ready to find some Easter eggs.

Invite a Friend to Easter Worship

Alleluia!

& The Easter Egg-Stravaganza



Lenten Happenings

Soup Suppers

Soup - 6:15pm

Worship - 7pm

March 2 - United Methodist

March 9 - Emanuel Lutheran

March 16 - St. John's Episcopal

Maundy Thursday Service

7:30pm

Pleasantville Presbyterian

Good Friday Service

Noon - 3pm

Pleasantville Presbyterian

One Great Hour of Sharing Opportunity

Coming on Palm Sunday

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing: relief to those affected by natural disasters, food to the hungry, and help to empower the poor and oppressed. Please look for the envelope in your bulletin, or make your gift online and give generously on March 20th.

"Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10

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 11:30am-2:30pm 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.

Come Make Palm Crosses

*Palm Sunday
March 20th
After worship*



Come learn the art of making crosses from palm leaves with Marleni Ruano and family. It has become a tradition for our church to hand out palm crosses on Palm Sunday (made by the Ruanos) and they would like to teach us how to make them.

Church Youth in High School Plays

Our church is very involved in the local high school plays. We have many youth and also many adults who work on these wonderful productions. Get your tickets soon to support these dramatic and musical efforts!

Byram Hills High School will present "**Beauty and the Beast**" on March 3, 4 and 5. Sam Alvis will be in the cast. For tickets go to bhhsbeautyandthebeast.bpt.me.

Westlake High School will present "**Grease**" on April 8, 9, 15 and 16. Cordelia Janetty will be in the cast and Manny Corona is helping out with crew. For tickets go to westlakeplayers.com.

Pleasantville High School will present "**Carousel**" on March 4, 5, 6, 11 and 12. Participating from our congregation and Youth Group are...

Cast: Logan Bronkema, Jack Cooper, Jack Geier, Madison Kelly, Sophia Maldonado, Ashley Ruano, Kamelle Ruano, Sydney Schulman, Amelia Stargiotti, Katherine Stargiotti and Ben Trombetta.

Crew: Philip Garbarini, Olivia Nemec and Katie Pedlow.

For tickets go to phsplay.org.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Sunday, March 6

Carousel at Pleasantville High School - we are going to see the high school play!

All Youth: meet at the church at 1:30pm - Carousel starts at 2pm

Sunday, March 13

Bonfire - we will host a bonfire at the church with toasty treats and more! Stop by after strike!

High School: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Sunday, March 20

Easter Eggs and More - join us and the Ruano's as we make Cascarones and more in preparation for Easter Sunday!

All youth are invited to make palm crosses at 11am after worship

High School: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

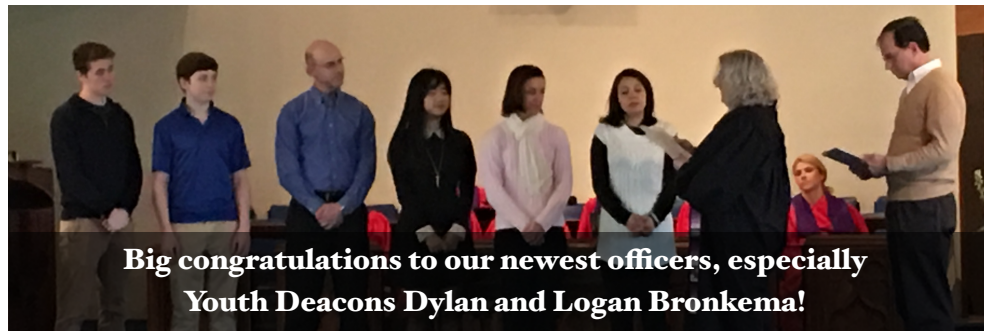
Sunday, March 27

Easter Sunday - join us for worship at 10am followed by our Easter Eggstravaganza!

No PYC

Sunday, April 3

Luau Party - all youth are invited to join us for a LUAU at the church - complete with games, food, costumes and more!



Thoughts on Easter

I love the Easter Season and not just because it means Spring is right around the corner (although it does mean that and I do LOVE that). I love Easter because it points to the fact that our God is so big, so strong, and so mighty there is literally NOTHING our God cannot do.

Easter points to the truth of Romans 8:







"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

We have services during Holy Week: Palm Sunday (3/20) at 10:00am followed by Palm Cross making with the Ruanos, Maundy Thursday (3/24) at 7:30pm, Good Friday (3/25) from 12:00pm - 3:00pm, and Easter Sunday at 10:00am followed by crafts and an egg hunt. Hope to see you there.





march

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
		1 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7pm Adult Ed. – Lenten Study "Forgiveness"	2 6:30pm Lenten Soup Supper /Worship United Methodist	3	4 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	5
6 Fourth Sunday in  8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Intergenerational Worship 10am Childcare 11:15am Mission Mtg. 11:30am Adult Ed. Preparing for Holy Week 1:30pm All Youth – Carousel	7 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 914-426- 0886	8 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7pm Adult Ed. – Lenten Study "Forgiveness"	9 6:30pm Lenten Soup Supper/Worship Emanuel Lutheran	10 9am E&M Mtg.	11 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	12
13 Fifth Sunday in  8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare/Sunday School 11:30am Adult Ed. Preparing for Holy Week 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6pm Sr. High Youth Group	14 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 914-426- 0886	15 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7pm Adult Ed. – Lenten Study "Forgiveness"	16 6:30pm Lenten Soup Supper /Worship Holy Innocents 7:30pm Session Meeting	17	18 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	19 8am Planning Retreat
20 <i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i>  8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare/Sunday School 11:15am Youth Council Mtg. 6pm Sr. High Youth Group	21 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 914-426- 0886	22 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7pm Adult Ed. – Lenten Study "Forgiveness"	23	24 7:30pm  Service	25 12pm  GOOD FRIDAY Service - PPC 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	26
27  8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare/Sunday School 11:15am Deacon's Meeting	28 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 914-426- 0886	29 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp	30	31		

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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Meet Our New Members

Karen Kim grew up near Albany in North Greenbush and was active in a Methodist church in Troy, NY. She studied math as an undergraduate, then received a graduate degree in exercise physiology and is currently an exercise instructor for older adults at Westchester Community College. She and her husband Will live in Pleasantville with their children Andy and Sadie. She has been involved in our church through teaching Sunday School, Women's Bible Fellowship, EVBS and helping out at the Rummage Sale. In her spare time she loves to travel, snow board, garden and she even does kick boxing! When we asked Karen why she decided to join the church, she said, "It's the perfect church for me to use my gifts to serve God, worship and continue to learn, and to raise my children with the loving Christian guidance that they need." You might be surprised to know that she worked as an investment banker and spent more than 3 years living in Germany, England and Tokyo. Karen is looking forward to doing more in outreach and mission, especially with ASP as her kids get older.

Nicole McGee Broward grew up in Alabama and has a B.A. from Yale and then studied law. She and her husband Nate live in Pleasantville

with their children Camilla, Anna Beatrice and James. She grew up as a Methodist and before coming to Pleasantville 2 years ago was active in a Methodist church in lower Manhattan, where she was a Trustee and involved in children's education and worship. You have seen Nicole singing in our choir, ringing in our Bell Choir. She is also a part of the Women's Bible Fellowship and has helped with the Rummage Sale. Although she previously worked as an attorney, she currently works as a full-time mom and also loves to read and garden in her spare time. She told us that "Nate and I were drawn to the sincerity of the people and music of the church and the vibrancy of the children's program and inspired by the good works being done by the people of the church." You might be surprised to know that she has now lived in the northeast longer than she has lived in the south - 19 years! She and Nate are open to all areas of service in the church and community.

Nate Broward was born in Columbus, Ohio and raised in Pittsburgh. He studied physics and philosophy and then went on to law school, which is where he and Nicole met. He grew up Catholic and was also a member of a Methodist church in lower Manhattan before moving

to Pleasantville. Nate practices intellectual property law at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy in Manhattan. He enjoys running and nature in his spare time. You might be surprised to know that Nate is a third-generation coin collector and is also an Eagle Scout!

Roy Meares grew up in Brooklyn, lives in Chappaqua and most recently was active in an Episcopal church in Virginia. He has a degree in communications and media arts and is a web comic writer and illustrator. You have seen him ringing in our Bell Choir, serving as a liturgist, and acting as a "Coffee Hour Personality" and has recently started teaching Sunday School. He enjoys Kung Fu, hiking, film-making, researching world religions and he is also a marksman! When we asked Roy about how he found our church he said "The holy spirit brought me here!" but we think one of our ASP teenagers also told him about us. You might be surprised to know that he seriously considered going to grad school for Ufology (the study of UFOs) but decided that writing web comics was much more practical :). Roy is looking forward to getting the Men's Bible Study going again and hopes he can help our church get more 20 and 30 somethings involved in our ministries.