



# The Good News Letter

## Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING



Above: Children's Sunday  
Left: Farewell & thanks to Maria Murerwa  
Below: Making Valentines for special people



### Come to the Lenten Study

Join us Sundays after worship, 11:30am-12:30pm in the Campbell Room, 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 continues on March 4th, 18th, and 25th. All are welcome!

### Calling all Men!

March 10th

Our Men's Breakfast will be held on March 10th at 7:30am. We'd like to find out about interest in this on-going fellowship event and what form it might take. Please RSVP to Mark Zarick or Pono Wong at [info@pvillepresby.org](mailto:info@pvillepresby.org).

### Pot Luck Lunch & Presentation About "Greening" our Church

March 11th

On March 11th, our congregation will be hosting a gathering to present the opportunity to solarize our church and our individual homes. Hudson River Presbytery has provided this campaign, and made arrangements with a local installer - Sunrise Solar Solutions - to provide this opportunity in a more accessible and affordable way for a limited amount of time. This is part of the Care for God's Creation ministry of the Presbytery - also known as HRP Green.

We will have a pot luck lunch directly after worship - and then hear a presentation at 11:30am. Everyone is welcome!

**Invite a Friend to Easter Worship**

*Alleluia!*

**& The Easter Egg-Stravaganza**

**Pastor Debbie on...  
"What Stories Mean the Most to You?"**

Dear Friends,

As we approach Lent, Holy Week, and Easter this year - there is much change happening in our world. I think we need to pay attention more than ever to the stories of our faith - the words that tell us who Jesus is, and who we are as we make the choice to follow him. Jesus stories are deep and complex and continue to breathe life into our lives - 2000 years later.

If someone were to ask you about the Bible - and the stories that mean the most to you in your life - what would you say? What stories do you or did you tell your children, or the children you teach in Sunday School? What stories did you hear from your family?

May we be open to God's stories in all their complexities - and say yes to Jesus again - or for the first time this year!

In Christ's Peace,

*Pastor Debbie*



**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 18th** by completing this form and sending it to the church office.

Please reserve \_\_\_ Easter Lily(s) for me at the cost of \$18 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>Films on Purpose</i>	March 1
<i>Evening Rhythms</i>	March 3
<i>Church Future Ideas</i>	March 4
<i>Lenten Study</i>	March 4
<i>Soup Supper</i>	March 7
<i>Men's Breakfast</i>	March 10
<i>Pot Luck &amp; Solar Event</i>	March 11
<i>Soup Supper</i>	March 14
<i>Soup Supper</i>	March 21
<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	March 29
<i>Good Friday</i>	March 30
<i>Easter!</i>	April 1
<i>Easter</i>	April 1
<i>Egg-stravaganza</i>	

**Lenten Happenings**

**Soup Suppers**

**Soup - 6:15pm**

**Worship - 7pm**

March 7 - United Methodist

March 14 - Emanuel Lutheran

March 21 - Pville Presbyterian

**Maundy Thursday Service**

7:30pm

Pleasantville Presbyterian

**Good Friday Service**

Noon - 3pm

United Methodist

**Women's Brunch**

**Coming in April**

**Date & details to follow**

**Welcome Spring!!**

*Come for the delicious food and wonderful fellowship*

# Church News

## One Great Hour of Sharing

*Palm Sunday, March 25th*

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. Your gifts are appreciated by many all over the globe, so please give generously this year.

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## Looking for Toothbrushes & Paste

Thank to all who donated laundry detergent to the Loaves and Fishes program. For the month of March we are looking for donations of toothbrushes and toothpaste. Again, thank you for your generosity.



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## A New Round for Bell Ringers

Have you thought it might be fun to learn how to ring hand bells? Or have you rung in the past and thought it would be nice to ring again?

The Bell Choir is open to anyone who can read basic music and likes to have fun! Rehearsals will begin Tuesday, March 13th from 7:30 – 9pm. If you decide to join the choir, it is a short commitment. We plan to ring in late spring and then will take a summer break. For more information contact Cathy Fellows.

## POP Update - WE DID IT! Congratulations Everybody!

With great joy we announce we have exceeded our pledge goal for Preserve Our Property. We have a total of \$578,216 pledged over four years. All but three 2017 pledges have been fulfilled, and we already have 33% of the 2018 pledges funded.

We will embark on two initiatives for 2018. One is to make our buildings more environmentally green, and the other is to restore the Carriage House property. Much of the work in the Carriage House will be to correct deferred maintenance, making both the Nursery School and the upstairs living space warmer, safer and drier, to borrow a phrase from Appalachia Service Project.

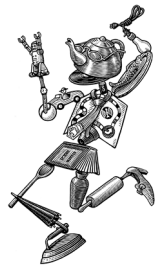
We are grateful for the energy and enthusiasm created by the Preserve Our Property initiative and thank everyone for their pledges and contributions. That we have achieved and exceeded our goal speaks to the commitment and dedication of our congregation to our buildings and our future. You can still be involved if you haven't made your pledge yet. No pledge or gift is too big or too small. Together our efforts have made (and will continue to make) a big impact on our community today and in the years to come. THANK YOU Pleasantville Presbyterian.

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## The Rummage Sale... Our Community Outreach Mission

It's that time again when we have the opportunity to give used items a new life. You can be a part of this important project as there are a variety of jobs available such as:

- Tinkerers can test electrical items and toys.
- Movers can help with set-up and clean-up.
- Decorators can help organizing and stocking rooms.
- Lunch staff can oversee the lunch hour.
- Greeters can make our customers feel welcome.



### Rummage Week is April 15 - 21 (sale dates are April 20 and 21)

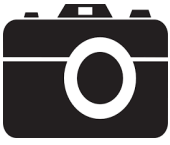
Many people depend upon Rummage to help make ends meet. Come, invite a friend, and make this important mission possible. Local people benefit, small mission groups benefit, and our church at home benefits.

### Start Collecting Your Rummage Now

If you have ever dropped off items for Rummage, you can appreciate the monumental job faced by our sorters. Please pre-sort and mark your donated items. Group items in the categories: linens, household, holiday, books, toys, sports equipment and separately place the groups in labeled boxes. **Especially important: separate clothes into men's, women's, boy's, girl's, baby's and clearly label each bag.** This extra step on your part will save our volunteers hours of work.

# Church News

## Photography Exhibit to be Held at our Church



We are excited to announce that our church will host an amateur photography exhibit in June! We invite you to submit your photographs that capture radical beauty in everyday life.

Photographs should be a high resolution 8 x 10 or 8 x 12 photograph matted in white and be submitted toward the end of May. If you have questions, talk with Jane Wong or email her at [missionco@villepresby.org](mailto:missionco@villepresby.org). More details and guidelines to follow. Spread the word and invite others to participate!

## Great Beginnings Pre-school News



March is an especially busy and exciting month highlighted with two special events. We will be all smiles when we meet the school photographer early in the month. Mid-month we will have our Pajama, Pizza, and Puppet Show Party. Robert of Robert Rogers Puppetry will present "Bugtime Follies" a musical variety show where all the actors are bugs! He will then introduce the children to the "characters" and show them how they work.

We still have a very limited number of openings available for September. If you know any pre-schoolers pass the word.

## Late Winter Gardeners

We are looking for a few people who would like to help in a late winter garden project. It involves digging and moving a few shrubs as a part of improving the appearance of our flowerbeds. Contact Cathy Fellows if you are interested in helping.

## Ideas for our Church in the Future

*Sunday, March 4th*

On March 4th in the sanctuary directly after worship, we will have a presentation on the response to our "Looking into the Church's Future" sessions that took place over the last few months. We are excited to share with you some of the changes that are already being implemented, and the programs that are coming. We will also share how we are evolving and how we work to align with what we heard from the information sessions.

## 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.

## Cooking Classes Coming

Do you get lost in your own kitchen? Are you tired of take-out; going broke from eating out? Are you going off to college and can't boil an egg? If you are interested in learning basic cooking skills we have a solution! Keep your eye out for an announcement from Harry Lewis about upcoming class(es).



**Saturday, March 3rd**  
5pm

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

## Ecumenical Soup Supper

at our Church  
**Wednesday, March 21st**  
6:30pm - Supper  
7:15pm - Worship

## Films on Purpose

*Thursday, March 1st*  
**Pleasantville Presbyterian Church**

Oscar nominated documentary  
**"Which Way Home"**

The personal side of immigration  
through the eyes of child  
migrants who risk everything to  
make it to the US.

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

## March 3rd

### *Evening Rhythms*

**Saturday 5:00 pm** – Come experience the presence of God, reflect and listen to amazing music

## March 4th

**5:00-7:00 pm Jr. & Sr. High** – Come hang out with the Nemeacs; cook dinner and play games...Bring a friend!

## March 11th

**1:30 pm**

**Jr. & Sr. High** – youth will meet at church at 1:30 and walk to the high school for “The Sound of Music”

## March 18th

**5:00-7:00 pm. Jr. & Sr. High** – **Pizza and Game Night**

Come join in the fun with Victor and Andrea Parada

## March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24th

### *Middle School Retreat at*

**Johnsonburg.** Meet at the church at 4:30 Friday. Back Saturday 8:30.

## March 25th

**5:00-7:00pm. Jr. & Sr. High** – **Easter Eggs and Cascarones** Come see what it’s all about!



## Children’s Sunday



### Middle School Retreat – Johnsonburg, NJ – March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

Who: Grades 5-8

What: This retreat will include youth from various Presbyteries, and promises 24 hours packed with fun, faith formation and fellowship

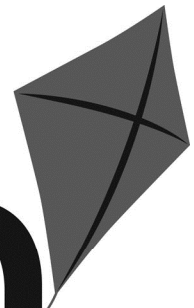
When: Meet at church at 4:30pm on Friday, Mar. 23. We should return to church between 8:30/9 pm on Saturday, Mar. 24 (kids will call when we get close to town).

Where: Johnsonburg is located in north-western New Jersey

Cost: \$75 per youth. Additional scholarships available, please see Pastor Debbie for additional information



# march



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm	<b>2</b> 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	<b>3</b> 9am PWL Brunch 5pm Evening Rhythms
<b>4</b> 8:45am Chancel Choir Practice 10am Intergenerational Worship Childcare in the Nursery 11am Listening to Church's Future Presentation 11:30am Lenten Study 5pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth Grp.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>7</b> 6:30pm Lenten Soup supper/Worship United Methodist	<b>8</b> 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm	<b>9</b> 6pm English Class - Campbell Rm.	<b>10</b> 7:30am Men's Bkfst
<b>11</b> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11am Solar Sunday Presentation 1:30pm Jr. High & Sr. High Youth Grp. - "The Sound of Music" 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Session Mtg. 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>14</b> 6:30pm Lenten Soup supper/Worship Emanuel Lutheran	<b>15</b> 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm.	<b>16</b> 6pm English Class - Campbell Rm.	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:30am Lenten Study 5pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth Grp. - Pizza and Game night	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>21</b> 6:30pm Lenten Soup supper/Worship Pleasantville Presb.	<b>22</b> 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm.	<b>23</b> 6pm English Class - Campbell Rm.	<b>24</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">             Middle School Retreat           </div>
<b>25</b>  <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:30am Lenten Study 5pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth Grp Easter Eggs & Cascarones	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 7:30pm Pleasantville Presbyterian	<b>30</b>  <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i> 12-3pm United Methodist	<b>31</b>



## Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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## Church News

### Testimonial from a Church Scholarship Recipient

As my first semester has ended, and a new semester approaches, I take this time to reflect on the aspects of my life that I have improved and consider the defined portions that need additional work. I can't do this without being resourceful and considering all aspects of help that I can receive. Scholarships, warm hugs and praise, and plenty of people support me in my journey of pursuing this higher degree of education.

Attending the recent student/alumni youth group reunion, I could see the same thoughts on the other college students' faces; the warm recognition of a childhood friend and the blooming excitement as youthful memories of games that took place in a magical place, came back. I am lucky to have received such an amazing scholarship. These other college students may not share the same fortune of being able to attend their school without fear of being unable to continue their education in the future. They may not benefit from the confidence that they are supported by an amazing community.

### Our Super Bowl of Caring

**"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"**



This simple prayer has inspired a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world. This prayer, delivered by Brad Smith, then a seminary intern serving at Spring Valley Presbyterian

Church in Columbia, SC, gave birth to an idea. Why not use Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun, to also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting dollars and canned food for the needy?

The senior high youth of Spring Valley Presbyterian liked the idea so much they decided to invite other area churches to join the team. Twenty-two Columbia churches participated that first year, and they sent all \$5,700 they had raised to area non-profits.

That was 1990. Since then, ordinary young people have generated more than \$100 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities in communities. In addition, hundreds of thousands of youth have experienced for themselves the joy and satisfaction of giving and serving, inspiring people of all ages to follow their generous example.

A giant thanks to our congregation and youth for our "Souper Bowl of Caring" collection of canned goods and monetary donations. We have collected \$261 which will be donated to our Loaves & Fishes program. The canned items will be distributed among our local program and the Pleasantville Interfaith Food Pantry.