

November 2017



# The Good News Letter

## Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING

### International Pot Luck Lunch

The food was delicious and the fellowship warm at our annual International Pot Luck Lunch on October 22nd. We enjoyed seeing the pins in the maps that showed us where people were born. Thanks to all who came, cooked, set up and cleaned up!



### Stewardship “Stew” Lunch

*Sunday, November 12th*

Come enjoy delicious homemade stews and wonderful fellowship right after worship. We will live out our theme, “We’ve Got Something to Share” as together we enjoy the bounty we create. If you would like to contribute a stew, bread or dessert, talk with Christine Alvis.

### Celebrate Thanksgiving at Church

*Thursday, November 23rd, 5pm*

**What?** A delicious Thanksgiving meal and great fellowship.

**Who?** For those who have family far away or who want to spend a special evening with their church family.

**How?** Pot luck—sign up in the foyer or call the church office.

**Food?** Please bring a side dish or dessert for 8-10.

#### **Questions?**

Ask Marleni Ruano, Jane Wong or Pastor Debbie

**RSVP** by November 20th.



## We've Got Something to Share

### STEWARDSHIP 2017

#### Save The Dates!

November 5 - Stewardship Kickoff and Leaders' Dinner

November 12 - Congregational Stew Lunch

November 19 - Stewardship Sunday

## Pastor Debbie on What Comes First?

Dear Friends in Christ,

Recently I saw an interview with Barbara Brown Taylor, in which the question was asked, "What do you do when God is silent?" Her answer has been rolling around in my mind ever since. She said – and I'm paraphrasing – When I feel like God is silent – and I feel disillusioned – I ask myself what illusion I've had about God that I need to let go of? What idolatry have I been subscribing to? Is it possible that it is in this silence that God is speaking?

Idolatry isn't something we name very often in our times. But – idolatry – putting something else in the place of God – is something we all struggle with from time to time. People make idols of all kinds of things money, family, security, education, sports, politics – these things and more can take the place of God in our lives. Not all idols are bad as they stand alone – in fact – in the list I chose – none of them are bad as their face. It is in the decision that those things come first in our lives that we might find ourselves feeling separated from God. The God who is at our core – loving us, leading us – letting us know that we are part of something bigger than ourselves – that God asks us to stop worshiping our idols. We can choose to find our identity in the one in whose image we are made.



So – as we come to these last months of 2017 – I wonder – what idolatry do we need to set down in order to follow Jesus?

In Christ's Peace,

*Pastor Debbie*

### Thanksgiving Offering

We welcome your donations to our Thanksgiving Offering. If you have giving envelopes, you will find a special one in your box for this donation. You do not need a special envelope, however; simply write "Thanksgiving Offering" in the memo section of your check conventionally or electronically. The monies collected are contributed to the Food Pantry to help out at Thanksgiving time. Thank you for opening your heart for those who will appreciate the gift of nutrition.

### Peace and Global

#### Witness Offering 2017

Thank you to all who gave to the Peace and Global Witness Offering. We raised \$316 and 25% will be retained for our Social Justice Interns. What a gift it is to those who have been hurt, in both their spirit and their community, to find a lasting peace, resolution of conflict and reconciliation.

Thank you for helping to create a world of peace through your gifts.



## Save the Dates

<i>Jazz Vespers</i>	Nov 4
<i>Hearts &amp; Hands</i>	Nov 5
<i>Stewardship Kickoff</i>	Nov 5
<i>Sharing Garland</i>	Nov 5
<i>ASP Info Meeting</i>	Nov 7
<i>"Stew" Lunch</i>	Nov 12
<i>Thanksgiving Dinner</i>	Nov 23
<i>Transitions</i>	Nov 30
<i>Church Pageant</i>	Dec 3
<i>Christmas Craft Making</i>	Dec 3

**Appalachia Service Project**  
**Information Meeting**



November 7th - 7pm

### Remember E-giving!

It's easy to set up.

Go to our website from your computer or Smartphone. Click on "Contribute". Follow the directions to create or update your new pledge.

NEW! You can download the App to your Smartphone from the App Store or Google Play. Simply search for "GivePlusChurch". Once you download the app, it will prompt you to enter the name of our church and then follow the directions. Simple, secure and easy! Questions? See Christine Alvis. Don't Want to Use a Computer? Visit the church office to obtain an authorization form with which you can write in your donation amount and frequency and bank information. Sign it and give it to Jo Anna Tivnan. To make a change to a recurring donation, just submit an updated form.

# Church News

## Hearts & Hands Boutique

Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>  
After worship - noon  
Fellowship Hall

Come buy handcrafted gifts!



## Help Make the Sharing Garland!

Join us downstairs on November 5<sup>th</sup>, after worship, as we work together to create a congregation-wide *Sharing Garland*. Kat and Greg Nemec will have paper autumn leaves for us to write or draw messages of thankfulness and gratitude. Come and share with us!



## Navigating Transitions

Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>  
7:30-9pm

The group is an open forum to share our experiences and provide support, encouragement, and inspiration to each other as we navigate life transitions.

**All are welcome.**

For more information,  
please speak with Jane Wong.

## Giving Envelopes?

If you wish to use giving envelopes for 2018 please let Jo Anna know and they will be ordered for you. You can stop by the office, call her at 914 769-0458 or send an email: [jativnan@pvillepresby.org](mailto:jativnan@pvillepresby.org).

## Apple and Pumpkin Picking

October 1<sup>st</sup>

Celebrating the beauty of fall!



## An Update on the Family from Mexico

Last month, on September 19<sup>th</sup>, Mexico was shaken by an earthquake. Buildings collapsed and people were killed, inside and outside of them! One of these unfortunate people, a 39 year old woman who was at work, was a friend of our family. When she felt the quake, she ran to the exit door but as she reached it, the structure collapsed and she lost her life that instant. She left behind her devoted husband Victor and three children, Joel, age 21, Miguel, age 15 and Irma Dalia, age 12.

Before the earthquake, the family had planned to visit Joel, a student at an agricultural college in a different state. While visiting, they had also planned to take Joel to a doctor to have his right foot examined as he had fallen and injured himself while studying animals out in the field. Instead, he came to Puebla for his mother's funeral. Once he arrived, his father realized the seriousness of his son's injury and took him to receive emergency medical services.

This is when our family realized the financial and emotional support this family desperately needed. We came to the congregation with this concern. Your response was amazing! Close to \$1,800 was collected in just two weeks! The following Sunday, everyone at church gathered in fellowship hall to make cards showing our congregation's love and support for this family, as well as for others affected by this tragic earthquake.

This family is so thankful for the support they have received at this very difficult time in their lives. The love and care they've been shown is motivating them to keep going and stay strong. Thank you all, once more, for making a big, huge difference in a family's life. God bless!!

Susana Corona

# Church News



## Evening Bible Fellowship Opportunity

For those of you whose daily responsibilities and commitments (work, children, etc.) preclude you from joining a daytime Bible fellowship group, there is an evening alternative!

You are welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 – 9pm in the Campbell Room --- whenever it works for you! You may be thinking - what is a typical evening meeting like? Well, it is stress free and fun with NO preparation needed before a meeting – we follow a study guide, read aloud from the guide and the Bible and then discuss questions included in the guide. We also share joys and concerns in our lives as a way to acknowledge our blessings and receive support from each other. We would love to have you join us on a Wednesday evening soon!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Nancy Flynn.

## Thanksgiving Food Drive

*Sharing God's Bounty, Spreading Hope*

Every year our congregation generously donates food to the Children's Village, a residential school in Dobbs Ferry for at-risk boys ages 6-20. At Thanksgiving the boys go home to visit their families or foster families. Our donations help to fill 200 baskets of food so that each of the boys can take home the gift of food for Thanksgiving. Any overflow goes to the Pleasantville Interfaith Food Pantry. The need is great, and our gifts make a huge difference!

Special grocery bags are available in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. Attached to it is a shopping list of suggested canned and packaged food. Please pick up a bag and keep it in your car as a reminder to purchase some non-perishable foods for those in need. Have your children select some of their favorite foods to donate. This mission project is for all ages!



Please fill your bag and return to church by **Sunday, November 12th.**

## How We Share Stewardship: Five Biblical Principles

In his book Connect With God – Sermon on the Mount, Bill Hybels suggests five simple biblically based principles we should follow concerning giving.

1. First, God calls us to **PARTICIPATE**, each and every one of us. We are to be cheerful givers sharing in the joyous privilege of giving from the abundant resources we receive. (Matthew 6:21).
2. Next He asks us to share **IN PROPORTION** to what we have been given. We are encouraged to give generously, but individually according to our ability (Luke 21:1-4).
3. Third, to remember our giving springs from a place of **JOYFULNESS**, a willingness to enter into the Lord's work through our giving of gifts (2 Corinthians 9:7).
4. Fourth, we are encouraged to develop **CONSISTENCY**, a regular discipline of setting aside a portion of our income. This helps us stay connected with God as we are reminded of the source of all we have. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
5. Lastly, we are asked to give in secret. **ANONYMITY** is the final principle of giving as taught in Matthew 6:2-4. May these principles be our guide as we pray about and consider our Stewardship pledge for 2018. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. (1 Peter 4:10)

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

## November 5th

### College Care Packages

5:00-8:00pm

Join us to fill boxes with fun stuff for our friends who are away at college

## November 12th

### Pizza and Games 5:00-8:00 pm

Come hang out and bring a friend

## November 19th

### Friends Giving Feast

5:00-8:00 pm

Join us for a "pot-luck" meal with your favorite, traditional Thanksgiving dish. Bring a friend

## November 26th


### Movie Night 5:00-8:00 pm

Meet at the church for a combined Junior and Senior High Pizza and movie night. Bring a friend





# NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible 7:30pm Stewardship Mtg	<b>2</b> 9am Hearts&Hands - Lobby 6pm Spanish Lessons - Campbell Rm	<b>3</b> 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	<b>4</b> 5pm Jazz Vespers
<b>5</b> <b>Stewardship Kickoff</b> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Intergenerational Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11am Hearts & Hands Boutique 11am Garland Making - FH 5pm Jr. High Youth Group 6pm Sr. High Youth Group 7:15pm Stewardship Leader Dinner	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>8</b> 7:30pm Session Mtg.	<b>9</b> 6pm Spanish Lessons - Campbell Rm	<b>10</b> 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	<b>11</b> 5pm Stewardship Lunch Set-up
<b>12</b> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11am Stewardship Lunch 5pm Jr. High Youth Group 6pm Sr. High Youth Group 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>15</b> 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible	<b>16</b> 6pm Spanish Lessons - Campbell Rm	<b>17</b> 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	<b>18</b> 5pm Pot Luck Lunch Set- up
<b>19</b> <b>Stewardship Sunday</b> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 5pm Jr. High Youth Group 6pm Sr. High Youth Group	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>22</b> 7:30pm Stewardship Mtg 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible	<b>23</b> 5pm Thanksgiving Dinner <b>Happy            Thanksgiving</b> 	<b>24</b> 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Deacon's Meeting 11:30am Advent Study 5pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>29</b> 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible	<b>30</b> 6pm Spanish Lessons - Campbell Rm 7:30pm Transitions Group		



## Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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## Looking Ahead

### Christmas Pageant

*December 3rd*



We will be sharing the story of Jesus' birth during worship on December 3rd. **Everyone** is invited to help us tell the tale of Jesus' birth by playing to roles of shepherds, animals, angels, and of course, Mary, David and baby Jesus.

If you are interested in helping with the Christmas Pageant, talk to Maria Murerwa or Kathy Brown.



**Christmas  
Craft  
Making**

*Sunday*

*December 3rd*

Right after worship.

Light buffet lunch,  
crafts and fellowship  
for all ages!

*Invite a friend!*

### Donate a Christmas Poinsettia

Please complete and mail to the church office if you wish to donate a poinsettia for the sanctuary. Deadline for orders is December 2nd.

Please reserve \_\_\_ poinsettias for me. Attached is \$20 for each plant order.

\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ To the Glory of God

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



**Please pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas services are over.**