

September 2016



The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING



1st Annual Summer BBQ

On the afternoon of July 29th we held our first Summer Community Barbeque. There were games for the kids, our resident chef grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and everyone brought something to share. Approximately 40 people attended including church members, neighbors and Great Beginnings families. Thanks to all who helped.

Faith in the Public Square

A Sermon Series Exploring the Public Dimensions of our Faith

Public life isn't just for politicians or celebrities;
each and every one of us lives a public life
because every life has a public dimension running through it.

— Miroslav Volf, *Public Faith in Action*



"The Commitment of Faith"

Sunday, September 18th

"The Conviction of a Calling"

Sunday, September 25th

"The Character to Act"

Sunday, October 2nd

Followed each week by a conversation with Pastor Debbie Bronkema.
(see pg. 3 for more details)

Have You Seen our New Facebook Page?

Check out our church's new Facebook page which will give you news, pictures, sermon info and even "Throwback Thursday". It is part of our new initiative for digital outreach, and it seems like it's become quite "likeable"! Please "like" it too.

Find it by searching for
[@pleasantvillepresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/pleasantvillepresbyterian).

Saturday, September 10 at 5:00pm
Followed by fellowship and finger-food!

Homecoming Sunday
September 11th

Kickoff Sunday
September 18th

Church News

“Faith in the Public Square” Adult Ed Series

Starting on "Kick-Off" Sunday -
September 18th

With the election season upon us, we can't help but see that as members of a larger community our public faith is not limited to the edges of the church. Join us as we explore the place and role of Christians in today's society and examine the relevant virtues and commitments that should guide us in public engagements of our faith.

Classes will tie into the sermons, allowing for deeper discussion of the topics, and be held on Sundays 11:30am-12:30pm (after worship) in the Campbell Room starting on Sunday, September 18th, and continuing on September 25th, and October 2nd. All are welcome! Childcare can be arranged - please contact Linda Berg for childcare or for more information.

Navigating Transitions

*Moving to Thursday nights
once a month!*

We started a series of "Navigating Transitions" discussions last year as a forum to share our experiences of transitions and provide support, encouragement, and inspiration to each other. Those who have attended have enjoyed the discussions so we will be starting again in the fall and meeting monthly.

The group is open to all - *drop-ins are welcome, no preparation needed* - and to make it more easily accessible, we will meet in at the church. We'll be meeting monthly on Thursday evenings in the Campbell Room 7:30-9pm starting on Thursday, September 15th. Mark your calendar in advance - fall dates are...

- October 13th
- November 17th
- December 15th

Interested in hearing more?
Please contact Linda Berg.

New Beginnings at Great Beginnings

Our church's Great Beginnings Pre-School is excited to welcome Linda Blizard to our staff. She will flex-time with Bryan as a part of the Songbirds teaching team. Linda is the mother of three, all of whom are Great Beginnings graduates. While a stay-at-home mom, she maintained relationships with children by volunteering with the Girl Scouts, with Hawthorne elementary school, and with the Mt. Pleasant PTA.

Linda already feels comfortable as a part of the Great Beginnings family as she has been an active co-op participating parent while her children were enrolled in the program, and she is looking forward to working with our children on a regular basis. Linda joins our dedicated and talented staff who guide our children to a great beginning in their educational journey.



Save the Dates

<i>Jazz Vespers</i>	Sept 10
<i>Homecoming Sunday</i>	Sept 11
<i>Transitions Group</i>	Sept 15
<i>Kickoff Sunday</i>	Sept 18
<i>Faith in the Public Square</i>	Sept 18
<i>Youth Group BBQ</i>	Sept 18
<i>Faith in the Public Square</i>	Sept 25
<i>Creative Writing Retreat</i>	Sept 25
<i>Jazz Vespers</i>	Oct 1
<i>3rd Grader Bibles</i>	Oct 2
<i>Faith in the Public Square</i>	Oct 2
<i>Transitions Group</i>	Oct 13
<i>40-Year Member</i>	Oct 23
<i>Int'l Potluck Lunch</i>	Oct 23

What Does God Want Me to Do Today?

Is this the first question you ask yourself when you wake up every morning? God invites us to be good stewards of life. He invites us into generosity. He invites us into mission. We are encouraged to grow, develop, advance and build these remarkable gifts. Our stewardship is not about conserving, holding, protecting and preserving what we have. Be wary of hoarding or clinging too tightly to your gifts; rather, grow and develop them. God supplies resources sufficient to the mission. We are people of hope. Ask God what He wants you to do today. Then listen.

Church News



Peace and Global Witness Offering

The Peace & Global Witness Offering will be received on World Communion Sunday, October 2nd. Your gift enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world.

- 25% of this offering will be retained for our congregation to use locally in connection with the global witness of Christ's peace.
- An additional 25% will be used for ministries of peace and reconciliation.
- The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

Please remember this important ministry and give generously on October 2nd.



Pastor Debbie Leads Creative Writing Retreat

Stony Point Center invites you to a **"Creative Writing as a Spiritual Practice" Retreat on September 25-27th**. Come away from the busyness of life to explore the power of words to open us up to the presence of God in our stories, our lives, our world.

This retreat is interactive with lots of opportunities to write in community and on your own. No matter how much (or how little) writing you've done in the past, this retreat can be for you!

The retreat leader is our own Rev. Dr. Debbie Bronkema. To register go to Stonypointcenter.org or contact Pastor Debbie.

Got Hands? Looking for Something To Do?

Our Stewardship and Property Committees are seeking volunteers to do bite sized "fix-up" jobs around our properties. If you (and your kids) are looking for a way to invest your time wisely during the upcoming school holidays, or anytime this fall, consider grabbing a friend or two and working on some stuff together.

It's a great way to have quality fellowship and improve our buildings at the same time. ASP folks and aspiring ASP-ers welcome. Please see Christine Alvis or Gary Dieckman if you are interested.

Calling all Prospective 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 Brandywine Bell Choir is open to anyone high school age or older who can read basic music and likes to have fun!

If you decide to join the choir, it is a short commitment. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays from 7:30- 9pm starting September 27th. We will choose a date to ring in church at the first rehearsal.

If you are interested in being a part of the Bell Choir or would like more information, please contact Cathy Fellows.

Preserve Our Property (POP) Update

The Women's Restroom Renovation was in full force last month and is on schedule for completion. We want to thank all of you who participated in the planning and creation of the new restroom for your time, your energy and your financial contributions. Special shout-out to the Design Committee: Ruth Fischer, Janet Gortsema, and Paula Graham, and to our Property Liaison, Gary Dieckman who ran the show! Thank you!

On August 11th, we had an Energy Audit performed by NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) who professionally examined all 4 of our buildings (Church, Christian Education, Carriage House and the Manse) at no cost to us. The result will be recommendations as to how we can conserve energy and at the same time make a smaller impact on the environment. We will keep you posted.

Church News



2016 Ecumenical Vacation Bible School

Over 85 children and youth, 4-years-old through 8th grade, participated in Ecumenical Vacation Bible School held this year at St. John's Episcopal Church. Friends were made, games were played, songs were sung, and Bible stories came to life! A big thank you to everyone who worked tirelessly to make EVBS happen! Next year it will be hosted by US!

Our Church has a Podcast!

Psst — have you heard that we have a new podcast? Each week after worship, Pastor Debbie and Bryan sit down to discuss the intersection of faith and life, scripture, and the week's news. Subscribe by going to pvillepresby.org/podcast.

Save the Date!

Sunday, October 23rd

**International
Potluck
Lunch**



**40-Year
Member
Celebration**



Sunday School Teachers

It's a great experience!
Talk with Bryan or Kathy Brown

Youth Group BBQ

September 18th

All 5th-12th graders and friends are welcome to this start-of-the-year event! Front lawn of the church. See more details on the Youth page.



Women's Bible Fellowship

Tuesdays, 10-11:30am
Campbell Room
Babysitting available
All are welcome!



Summer Sunday School

This summer, during our Summer Sunday School program you made a difference by: creating emergency food bags, making gifts for the people of West Virginia and supporting ASP, and constructing decorations for EVBS.

Fall Kickoff

September 18th

We are excited for Sunday School to start again on September 18th. We are preparing lessons, crafts, videos, and more to create an AWESOME Sunday School year. If you want to be part of this incredible ministry, sharing God's love with the adorable children of our church talk to Kathy Brown or Bryan.

Homecoming

September 11th

Be sure to join us on September 11th as we return from mountain top experiences over the summer. Between Triennium, ASP and EVBS, summer vacations, summer camps, summer classes and summer fun — it was QUITE a summer, but now it's time to return home and share some of these experiences with the congregation.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Saturday, Sept 10

Jazz Vespers – Come reflect, pray, heal and experience the presence of God through music at this jazz service. Followed by fellowship and finger-food.

Service at 5:00pm

Sunday, Sept 11

Homecoming Worship – Join us in worship to hear stories from our amazing summer experiences; like ASP, Triennium, EVBS and more!

Worship at 10:00am

Sunday, Sept 18

Kickoff Barbecue – Join us for our kickoff barbecue on the front lawn of the church as we start another GREAT year of Youth Group!

All Youth – 5:00 - 7:00pm

Sunday, Sept 25

Team building at Holmes – join us for an afternoon of fun and team building at Camp Holmes.

All Youth – 12:00 - 5:00pm

Sunday, Oct 2

Neighbors Link – we are continuing to support the awesome work of Neighbors Link by preparing meals.



Team Building at Camp Holmes — September 25

After grabbing a quick slice of pizza at the church after worship, we will head out to Camp Holmes for a day of team building, games, and more.

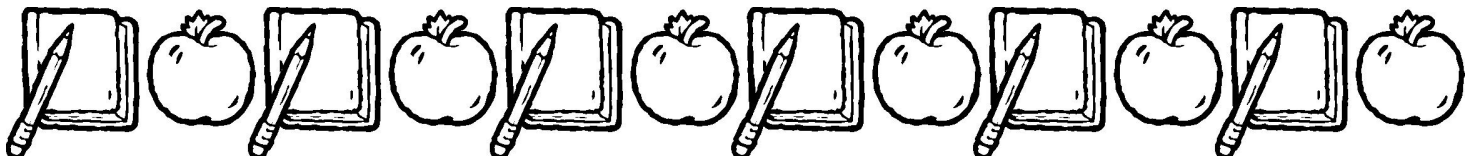
If you want to participate, **RSVP to Bryan by Sept 18**, fill out our covenant and be sure to wear close toed shoes and bring a water bottle.

We need chaperones and drivers for this and other upcoming youth events. Talk to Bryan or JoAnne Gullotta to find out more.

September 2016



<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
				1	2 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	3
4 8:45am Chancel Choir Practice 10am Intergenerational Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery	5 <i>Labor Day</i> 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 426- 0886	6 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women’s Bible Fwshp	7 9am GBPS Teacher’s Mtg. 7:30pm Evening Women’s Bible Fellowship	8 9am GBPS Open Classroom	9 9am GBPS Meet & Greet 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	10 5pm Jazz Vespers
11 <i>Homecoming</i> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Mission Meeting 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 9:30am GBPS Orientation 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 426- 0886	13 9:30am GBPS Orientation 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women’s Bible Fwshp	14 9:30am GBPS Orientation 7:30pm Session Mtg.	15 7:30pm “Navigating Transitions”	16 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	17
18 <i>Kick-off Sunday</i> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:30am Adult Ed. Sermon Series – “Faith in Action”	19 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 426- 0886	20 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women’s Bible Fwshp	21 7:30pm Evening Women’s Bible Fellowship	22	23 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	24
25 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Deacon’s Meeting 11:30am Adult Ed. Sermon Series – “Faith in Action”	26 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 426- 0886	27 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women’s Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	28 7:30pm Evening Women’s Bible Fellowship	29	30 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	



Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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Reflections on the Appalachia Service Project

Forty-nine youth and adults headed to Hanover, WV in July to be part of the Appalachia Service Project, one of the biggest mission programs our church supports. The group spent nine days traveling, connecting with families, and making homes warmer, safer and drier. Working in seven teams, they repaired roofing, siding and insulation, and constructed rooms, ramps, porches and more. Here are the reflections of just a few of them:

“Seeing how people live in impoverished places and how generous they are—they share everything they have with us—makes me want to keep going and try to be as generous as they are,” said Alicia Alvis. She was one of a record nine participants to receive a Golden Hammer Award this year for five years of participation in Pleasantville ASP.

“ASP was a way to get away from everything and help someone,” said Logan Bronkema, a two-time participant. “A bunch of awesome people go on ASP.”

For Bryan Bardin, another Golden Hammer recipient, the trip was an opportunity to introduce youth to people and circumstances beyond what they’ve known. “Each step of the way we were able to show our youth the world is bigger than their experience,” he said. All week, “The world kept getting bigger.”

Gary Dieckman, who this year celebrated his 15th year on ASP, the group’s longest serving volunteer, says he’ll remember the transformation of 11-year-old Mason. The boy was initially stand-offish and mean to Gary’s team, which spent the week building the boy and his brother their own bedroom. (They’d been sleeping on couches.) “I came away feeling like we were buddies,” Gary said. “When we left, he was on the porch waving to us.”



It’s not too early to think about joining us next year. Young adults, you don’t have to be in high school to participate; we welcome 20-somethings. We need adult volunteers, too; you don’t need to have a son or daughter on this trip to sign up yourself.

For details, contact
Gail Zarick or any ASP volunteer that you know.

