



The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING

Welcome Ron Kevern!



We are pleased to welcome Ron Kevern as a new member of our congregation. He has the distinction of becoming our first “digital member” because he lives in Arizona. We asked him to tell us a little more about himself and this is what he told us....

I grew up in Pontiac, Michigan where my Dad was a Police Office and Mother worked in retail sales and as a cook for a school district. I had a twin brother, Donald, who passed away in 2014.

I graduated from Waterford Township High School in Pontiac and continued my education at Central Michigan University where I received my B.A. degree. A few years later, I completed my M.A. at the University of Michigan.

As a boy, I attended the First Christian Church of Pontiac, and the First United Methodist Church in Pontiac. After we were married, my wife Marilyn and I joined St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Rochester, Michigan. We retired to Arizona and joined the Mountain View Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale.

(cont’d on pg. 4)

Highlights from the PYC Ski Trip!

by Skyler Mosenthal

It is annual, it is epic, and it is always memorable. The 2017 PYC Ski Trip lived up to its hype as one of the favorite activities for adventure and friendship as Jr. and Sr. High braved the slopes of Butternut Mountain and went full-throttle FUN at Camp Jewell (YMCA of Greater Hartford).



Skiing, night hikes, a late-night ice cream sundae buffet, board games, bunk beds, a foosball tournament, lessons on rhodopsin, indoor rock climbing, farm animals . . . this weekend had it all! *(cont’d on back page)*

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JAZZ
VESPERS
Saturday, February 4th
5:30pm



Meet Maria Murerwa!

Maria Murerwa began her job as our Children and Youth Ministries Intern in January 2017. Maria

lives in Manhattan. She's finishing a B.A. in Urban & Community Studies in May from the CUNY School of Professional Studies in New York. Maria has a variety of fascinating life experiences including Delegate to Youth Peace Summit in Kenya and Rwanda, Lutheran Camp Counselor in Iowa and Virginia, Advocacy Delegate at UN Commission on the Status of Women and Program Coordinator of Student Activities and Leadership Development at Hunter College. She is fluent in English, Kinyarwanda, Swahili and Kiganda. She's very excited to work with the children and youth of our congregation!

Pastor Debbie on Blessings and Opportunities

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are entering a new chapter in our ministry. Although change can be challenging, I am so grateful for the ways God's blessings and opportunities are showing up. This congregation's openness to enthusiastically receiving what God sends us is a real joy.

On the front page of this month's newsletter you will see two of those blessings. Maria Murerwa, our new Children and Youth Ministries Intern came to us by way of Rev. Bill Eschen from St. Peter's Church in New York City. (For those of you who don't know him, Bill is a counselor who has offices in the upper wing of our Christian Education building.) Maria's enthusiasm for this chance to work with our congregation is matched by the enthusiasm of the people who have already met her! We welcome her to our church.

The second blessing, which I'm pretty partial to, is my Dad joining this congregation. In so doing, he's helped us with the next phase of the launch of our digital connections ministry. We hope that this ministry will be a way to reach out with the love of Christ to people who feel separated from church for all kinds of reasons. We envision this next phase as a way to connect with those who can't be in worship with us due to issues such as location, illness, work and family responsibilities.

In the next week, I hope you'll open the new church website. Same address - www.pvillepresby.org. For those of you who are wondering about Bryan Bardin, what you see there may be the beginning of one of the next chapters of his life. He's enjoying creating websites and ways to do digital outreach for us and other people, and is excited to see where that leads him. In the last month we've been piloting a digital connections email. You will hear more about that soon.

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement for the journey.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Debbie



Save the Dates

<i>Films on Purpose</i>	<i>Feb 2</i>
<i>Jazz Vespers</i>	<i>Feb 4</i>
<i>Children's Sunday</i>	<i>Feb 5</i>
<i>Valentine Stewardship</i>	<i>Feb 5</i>
<i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i>	<i>Feb 5</i>
<i>Scout Sunday</i>	<i>Feb 12</i>
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>March 1</i>

Looking for Liturgists

Would you like to participate in worship as a liturgist? A liturgist is someone who assists Pastor Debbie in leading worship by reading scripture and various parts of the service.

If you are interested, please contact Jo Anna Tivnan at JATivan@pvillepresby.org.

New Deacons and Elders Announced

Deacons

Through January 2018

John Leslie
Marion Leslie
David Smutzler

Through January 2019

Susana Corona
Esther Kim

Through January 2020

Logan Bronkema (1 year)
Cordelia Janetty (1 year)
Scott Mosenthal

Elders

Through January 2018

Christine Alvis
Steve Berg
Charles Titterton
Michelle Torosian

Through January 2019

Linda Berg
Cathy Fellows
David Fourie
Barb Kelly

Through January 2020

Kathy Brown
Nicole Browand
Gary Dieckman
Kim Kleman Lewis



New and Improved Website Coming!

We're pleased to announce the launch of our new website at the beginning of February. Thanks to the Digital Action Committee with special help from Kat Nemecek and a lot of work by Bryan Bardin, we will have an inviting and informative way to tell people about our church and congregation.

When the new site is up, the URL will be the same.....

www.pvillepresby.org

Be on the lookout for an email announcement very soon.

Church News



Time for Pre-School Registration

Great Beginnings, our church's pre-school, is currently registering 2 ½, 3, and 4 year olds for the September 2017 class. 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. (Church families receive a tuition discount). Brochures and registration forms are available on the blue bookshelf in the CE wing or for more information talk with Ruth Fischer.



Scout Sunday

February 12th



Calling all Scouts! Contact Kim Lewis worship@pvillepresby.org if you are a current Scout, if you would like to be listed in the bulletin or be a part of the worship service.

Rummage Sale

April 28th & 29th

Mark your calendar

Gather your stuff

Tell your friends



New Member Ron Kevern

(cont'd from pg. 1)

In the Methodist churches I taught Sunday School for 20+ years and served on both the Pastor/Parish Committee and the administrative board. I also sang in the choir and played the piano for the Children's Choir. In the Presbyterian Church, I sang in the choir for 23 years, served on several committees for the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon and am an ordained Deacon and Elder.

In my work life I have been a public school teacher, school principal and Director of Personnel and Labor Relations for the Rochester, Michigan School District. I was with Oakland University in Rochester for 25 years serving as a Career Counselor and then Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs.

My community involvement includes working as the Chair of the Board of the YMCA in Rochester; Vice Chair of Oakland County United Way; working with the Girl Scouts of Oakland County; being active in Prison Counseling in Michigan and in Arizona. I also served as President of the Central Michigan University Alumni Board for several years and as President of the Rochester Board of Education.

My wife, Marilyn and I raised three children and enjoy eleven grandchildren. Marilyn passed away in August, 2016 just days after celebrating our 61st wedding anniversary. She was a teacher for many years, served on many church committees and was a member and lecturer for the Beatrix Potter Society

I still enjoy playing the piano and being a mentor to many.

The reason I joined Pleasantville Presbyterian Church is because I love my daughter and wanted to support her church.

I'm happy to be your first digital member. I enjoy participating in the on-line worship, reading your Facebook posts, and any other way I can find to engage with the congregation. I surely will be pleased to provide financially to Pleasantville Presbyterian Church and of course support the Pastor and her family at all times!

We welcome you Ron!

Stewardship Update

We are pleased to report that this year brought us 4 new pledgers. 40% of all promises pledged rose over last year's. Thanks to everyone for your faithful pledges and support in 2016.

In 2016, One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, Thanksgiving and Christmas Joy Offerings raised a combined \$2,415.00. 25% of the Peace and Global Witness Offering (\$123.00) was retained to support our Youth Social Justice Internship program here at Pleasantville Presbyterian as was 40% (\$196.00) of the Pentecost Offering. We are grateful for your dedicated support.

Church News

Valentine Stewardship

♥ February 5th ♥
After Worship

All ages are welcome and needed to come spread the love through art!

Stop by the craft table in the Fellowship Hall after worship to create custom Valentine cards. Make one (or two) for church members we don't regularly see, then make one for a loved one!

Use your talent to brighten a church member's Valentine's Day.

Navigating Transitions

Interested in joining our monthly discussions on navigating life transitions? Our group is an open forum to share our experiences of transitions and provide support, encouragement, and inspiration to each other. Please speak with Linda Berg or Jane Wong.

Youth Group Improv Night

January 7th was our very first "Improv Night" featuring not one, but two guest appearances. Jackson Wong tested the spontaneity of members of the Junior High Youth group by playing games like "Late for Work", "Whatcha Doing?" and "The Prop Game."

Later Eileen Walton worked with the High School Youth doing skits and playing "Silent Movie." Even Pastor Debbie got in on the fun!

Celebrate Children's Sunday

February 5th

Children's Sunday is one of the most exciting traditions in our church. It's an opportunity for us to see God through child-like faith as  our youngest disciples take over and lead us in worship. This year our theme explores "Bringing out the God-colors in our World" We look forward to seeing you on Children's Sunday February 5th. You will be amazed!

Souper Bowl Sunday

February 5th

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

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th, our youth are taking part in the national movement, "Souper Bowl of Caring." To help...

- Bring some cans of food to worship to be donated to the Pleasantville Interfaith Food Pantry or
- donate money to our church's Souper Bowl collection which will be used for our church's ongoing effort to feed hungry people in Pleasantville.

Coming Soon!

New
Church
Website



Confirmation Class

For 8th and 9th graders
Tuesdays @ 7pm

Will begin after winter break
Interested?
Talk with Pastor Debbie

"Films on Purpose" Highlight

Refugee Crisis

February 2nd - 6:30pm

Mount Pleasant Public Library

Join "Films On Purpose" (FOP) and the Mount Pleasant Public Library for a very special screening of "Salam Neighbor" - a film about life in a Syrian refugee camp on the Jordanian border.

A moving film that gives a human face to the international refugee crisis, Salam Neighbor follows two Americans who spend a month in the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan. While telling the stories of some of the children and adults they get to know in the camp, it offers a stunningly raw view into the lives of displaced peoples.

Reception at 6:30pm, film will begin at 7pm with a panel discussion with Westchester residents directly involved with refugee resettling efforts in our area following the screening.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information about "FOP", check out their Facebook page.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Saturday Feb 4th

Jazz Vespers — 5:00 pm

Come experience the presence of God at this jazz music service. All are welcome – invite a friend!

Sunday Feb 5th

Super Bowl Celebration

Come watch the game with your friends – see article for details on where and what to bring!

Everyone — 5:30 pm to halftime

Sunday Feb 12th

Valentines Night of Goodness

Join the Nemecs to create goodies and help spread the love. Dinner will be provided.

Middle School — 5:00 - 7:00 pm

High School — 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Sunday Feb 19th

Winter Break

Enjoy your break! ☺

No Sunday night PYC

Sunday Feb 26th

Chill Night @ Youth Group

As school and play are heating up, come to youth group to chill out. Games, a movie, just hanging out, let's decide – over food of course! Dinner will be provided.

High School — 6:00 - 8:00 pm



Wow, What a Ski Trip!!

We kicked off 2017 with a fun filled time of skiing Butternut Mountain and an overnight stay at Camp Jewell. Skiing, night hikes, a late-night ice cream sundae buffet, board games, a foosball tournament, indoor rock climbing, farm animals...this trip had it all! A huge shout out to our chaperones Susanne Corona, JoAnne Gullotta, Jack McCarthy, Skyler “see you next year” Mosenthal, Michelle Torosian, and Pono Wong. Bouldering, rhodopsin, God finds a spark for the fire...find out more from those who went – already looking forward to next year's trip!

Start a Fabulous February with the Annual Super Bowl Party on Sunday Feb. 5th

Join us for the big event at the Corona's (191 Willis Ave. in Hawthorne). A favorite youth group tradition, watch the Super Bowl (or not) and the commercials (how could you not?!), munch on delicious food, and enjoy the fun. Please bring something to share – soft drinks for Middle Schoolers, a favorite dessert for High School youth.

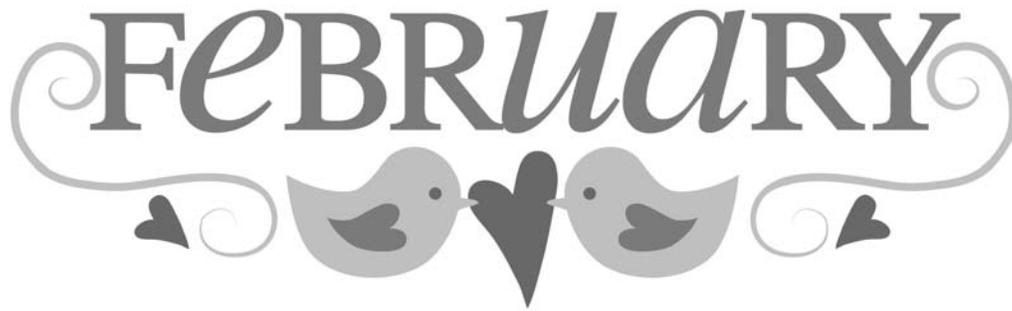
And also, be sure to bring a can of non-perishable food to support PYC's *Souper Bowl of Caring* food collection!



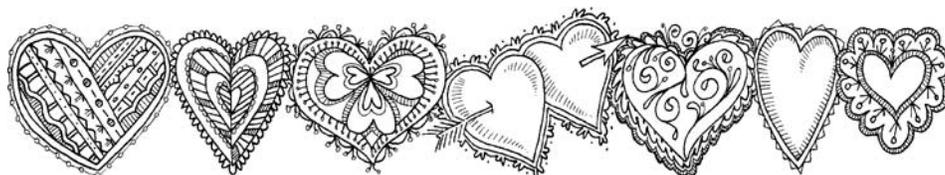
A Peek Ahead

Plan to come with us to see Pleasantville High School's musical *The Drowsy Chaperone* - matinee on Sunday March 12th.

FEBRUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 6pm Spanish Lessons – Campbell Rm	3 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	4 5pm Jazz Vespers
5 Children's Sunday Valentines Stewardship Souper Bowl of Caring 8:45am Chancel Choir Practice 10am Intergenerational Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Mission Meeting 5:30pm Youth Grp. – Superbowl – off-site	6	7 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	8 7:30pm Session Mtg.	9 6pm Spanish Lessons – Campbell Rm	10 6pm English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	11
12 Scout Sunday 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 5pm Youth Grp. - Valentines 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13	14  <i>Valentine's Day</i> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	15 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	16 6pm Spanish Lessons – Campbell Rm	17 6pm English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	18
19 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery	20  President's Day	21 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	22 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	23 6pm Spanish Lessons – Campbell Rm	24 6pm English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	25
26 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Deacon's Mtg. 6pm Sr. High Youth Grp	27	28 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7pm Confirmation Class 7:30pm Bell Choir				



Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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Church News



January 8th - we celebrate our first 2017 baptism!



January 22 - Presbyterian Women's League sponsored a recorder concert led by Karen Snowberg, Director of Westchester Recorder Guild.

Youth Group Ski Trip was Epic! by Skyler Mosenthal *(cont'd from pg. 1)*

I had the privilege to be part of the weekend as a chaperone. It was the first time I met most of the participants on the trip, so I was excited to meet the crew, lend a hand where I could, and somehow bring the fun factor as opposed to being some "random dude who used to go to youth group at this church." I think it was somewhere between eating a slice of orange dunked in hot sauce, getting destroyed by the kids in our made-up-rules game of "Sorry!" (meant for 4 players, we had 9), and racing to claim utter and total victory in the first-car-to-be-packed competition (you've never seen 10 year old boys work so hard to clean up, pack up, and get going!) that I went from being a stranger to being part of the pack.

It is amazing just how much of a pack this group turned out to be - the older kids playing with the

younger kids during down time, everyone sitting together and enjoying conversation across age and gender without constraint of social grouping at the dinner/breakfast table, and the PYC-ers wholeheartedly cheering each other on during rock climbing.

It makes me reflect on my last go-around with the Ski Trip, back when only senior highs could attend, every inch of floor space in Pastor Fitzsimmons' cabin was covered with sleeping bags, and the manhunt on the frozen lake behind the house was the nighttime activity.

While the activities, amenities, and itinerary may have changed, the most important elements remain at the center: faith, fun, and fellowship. I'd call that pretty epic.