



The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING

Easter Celebration!

“Christ is Risen, Christ is Risen Indeed!” What an exuberant expression of Christ’s miraculous resurrection!

Between the power of Handel’s Messiah, accompanied by the brass quintet and the sheer giddy joy of the Easter Eggstravaganza, Pleasantville Presbyterian boldly proclaimed the Good News of Easter.

A big thank you to everyone who pitched in to make it work, especially the Nemecs for sharing the crafts and our Easter Egg helpers and hiders.



RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, **April 29** - 9am-5pm

Saturday, **April 30** - 9am-1pm

Jazz Vespers

May 7th – 5pm

*Contemplative, Spirit-Filled,
Jazz Vespers*

We will begin a new worship service on Saturday, May 7th at 5:00. Our musicians will be led by Ike Sturm, who serves as the Music Director for St. Peter’s Jazz Worship in Manhattan. Here’s what Ike has to say about Worship:

“Jazz is an open art form, always growing and exploring new edges. Improvisation gives the sense of being open to the spirit, and captures an always growing faith. It has the sense of having lots of different entry points, and signals inclusivity – which makes it a great way to build open and engaged community, and give people space to experience the Spirit of God.”

Pastor Debbie will lead this worship service, with prayers, scripture, reflections, and song.

We’re excited about this opportunity to help people experience the presence of God through music. Hope to see you there!

Pastor Debbie on Ministries of Our Church

Dear Friends,

So much is happening in the life of this congregation! At our Congregational Ministry Summit earlier this month 34 of us came together to learn about the Ministry Action Teams that are exploring new possibilities in ministry for 2016. One of those you read about on the front page of this newsletter – our new worship opportunity – Jazz Vespers.

Another outreach we are working on is looking at ways we can stand in the gap with people who are hungry in our local area. We are so excited to report that Hudson River Presbytery has chosen us to receive a legacy fund grant to get this project going! Charlie Titterton has been leading efforts to do fact-finding about our local area, what programs are already in place, and how we can work together to help people in need, particularly children who are going to school hungry. Jane Wong, who has her Master's Degree in Social Work, will be our project mission coordinator, helping to get these efforts off the ground, coordinating church volunteers, and doing the community interface work necessary to put the project in place. We welcome Jane to our staff.

We had two more Ministry Action Team workshops, one on outreach in the digital age, and another on planning an intergenerational mission retreat. Watch for more news on those going forward!

I am grateful to serve a congregation that is eager to walk with God, on the paths we've been walking, and on any others that open up for us to serve God together.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Debbie



Save the Dates

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <i>Midnight Run</i> | April 2 |
| <i>Women's Brunch</i> | April 16 |
| <i>ASP Skill Building</i> | April 17 |
| <i>Rummage Sale</i> | April 29 |
| <i>Rummage Sale</i> | April 30 |
| <i>Jazz Vespers</i> | May 7 |
| <i>Pancake Breakfast</i> | May 14 |

Hudson River Presbytery "Curious Faith"

Looking for short weekly meditations to help with the Monday blues? Check out the Hudson River Presbytery's Curious Faith blog. A Curious Faith is "first and foremost about shared voices." Each week you will hear from a different voice from across the Hudson River Presbytery sharing a short reflection or meditation designed to spark your own. Find out more at hudrivprescuriousfaith.wordpress.com

Women's Brunch

Saturday, April 16th
9:30 - 11am

Rev. Sarah Henkel

A Teaching Elder in the
Hudson River Presbytery &
resident of the Community of
Living Traditions at Stony Point

Come for the delicious food and
wonderful fellowship

Women & girls of all ages welcome

Photo Directories are Here!

We are happy to announce that our new Photo Directory is here and being distributed. If you haven't already picked yours up, please stop by the church office or talk with Barb Loizeaux or Bryan Bardin on a Sunday morning.

Thanks to all who made it possible especially Chad Kraus for taking photos, Gary Dieckman and Executive Printing for printing and Bryan Bardin for organizing and formatting.

Wanted! Ping Pong Table



Cleaning out your basement or garage? Do you have a ping pong table that needs a new home? Please consider donating it to our English classes. The students are excited about learning a new game and having a recreational activity to participate in while practicing their English. Please contact the church office or Pam Mosenthal.

Church News



Daisy Mannino displays her first knitted cap that she made as a part of the "Valerie Project" at Hearts & Hands. Shown here with her teacher Bennie Gray.

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

Mark your calendar for the Pancake Breakfast on Pleasantville Day, May 14th. Bring your friends! The Pancake Breakfast is a great Pleasantville Day tradition. It is also a fundraiser for the Pleasantville Appalachia Service Project volunteers, who are preparing for a home repair mission trip to West Virginia in mid July. See you on Pleasantville Day in the church Fellowship Hall.

From the Scholarship Committee

High school seniors interested in scholarship money to help offset college tuition are encouraged to apply to the church's Scholarship Committee. Applications are posted on the church website and are due by the end of June. Any questions, please see Scott Mosenthal.

Results of One Great Hour of Sharing

Thank you to all who gave generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday. A total of \$518 was donated! Here are a few examples from PCUSA of the impact of your gifts:

- 220,000 people received food, water, shelter and medical care in the aftermath of the Nepal earthquakes.
- Over 308,000 people in over 30 countries now have increased food security and livelihoods through international development work.
- More than 10,000 children and their families in the Dominican Republic have access to clean water, helping to prevent water-related diseases.

Sincere thanks for contributing to PCUSA's global effort to be God's hands, feet and heart throughout our world.

First Congregational Ministry Summit

Over 30 people gathered on Saturday, March 19th to discuss, plan and get excited about several new ministry initiatives. Participants broke into interest groups to find out more about Jazz Vespers, a new community breakfast program, a digital communications initiative and an all church retreat. Stay tuned for more details about these new ministries.



Midnight Run

Our congregation participates in the Midnight Run which is a ministry to those who are currently homeless in NYC. The dates of the next Runs are April 2nd and June 4th. Donations of **gently used clothing** are always appreciated and may be dropped off in the large bin in the CE hallway. Items needed for spring are: jeans, sneakers & casual shoes, light jackets, hoodies, knit shirts, t-shirts, backpacks, sleeping bags, caps and belts. Please contact Dave Smutzler for more information.

News from Great Beginnings Pre-School

Since September, twice a week, Bryan Bardin has been joining the Songbirds (4 year olds) of our church's pre-school, helping them develop their fine motor skills through crafts and their thinking skills through science explorations.

Lately he has been working with the kids applying the scientific principles of prediction, experimentation, and observation to learn more about the world around us. They have explored their senses, light, gravity and more. It really has been a joy to see these young scientists learn, laugh, and grow.



Church News

Rummage Sale Dates

Sale Days

April 29 - 9am-5pm
April 30 - 9am-1pm

Drop-Off Days April 24, 25, 26

Helping Days

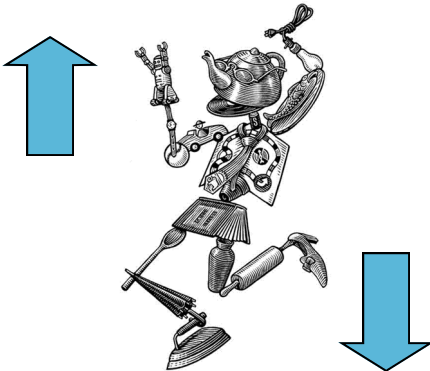
Saturday, April 23, 9:30-10:30am
Sunday, April 24, 1-5pm
Monday - Thursday, 9am-5pm
Monday & Tuesday also 7-9pm

Cleanup Help Really Needed

Saturday - 1-4pm

Babysitting Available

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday mornings



Sunday School

Over the past month, our Sunday School students have been walking the journey with Jesus from the triumph of Palm Sunday, through the bitter sweet dinner of Maundy Thursday to the death and ultimate resurrection of Easter.

I've been reflecting on our Sunday School program lately, and I feel very blessed to be part of such an open and loving community. I'm so grateful for our Sunday School teachers who show up week after week and work to cultivate a safe, nurturing, Christ filled environment for our church's youngest disciples to learn, grow and experience Jesus.

Whether or not you've ever taught Sunday School before, if you feel called to be part of the few, the proud, talk to Bryan or Kathy Brown. We have lots of exciting lessons planned for the coming months.

Bryan Bardin



Ecumenical Vacation Bible School

SAVE THE DATE

August 8 - 12

St. John's Episcopal Church

The EVBS steering committee is gearing up for another week of Vacation Bible School. Be sure to save the date because we are ready for another amazing week.

- Mr. V. is inflating his beach ball and getting ready for fun and games at rec
- Mr. Chris is tuning his keyboard and picking the very best songs
- Bryan is trying to come up with even wackier booths for the Youth Group EVBS Fun Fair.

All we need is you! Registration forms will be coming soon, but if you are available to volunteer, we would love to hear from you. Send us an email, info@pvillevbs.org.

Rummage Sale: A Local Mission Opportunity

Good news! You are invited to participate in a mission opportunity-and you don't have to travel to a far off land. Since many people count on Rummage to provide basic needed items or to enjoy items beyond their budgets, you can show compassion by sharing (donating) your gently used, but no longer needed possessions.

You can be a part of the incredible experience that makes this happen. There are day, evening, and

weekend work opportunities. Whether it's sorting, pricing, arranging, selling, cleaning up, or setting out food for the workers there is something for everyone. Previous experience is not necessary. New faces are always welcome and babysitting is provided for the little ones.

Come for the fellowship and enjoy the fun and the rewards of seeing people finding needed "treasures".

What to donate - Please be selective about what you donate. Please don't bring tires, bathroom/kitchen components, exercise equipment, ski equipment, really big household items/furniture, computers, TVs, infant equipment such as cribs, car seats, swings and play yards.

Look for the sign up board in the lobby or the inserts in the Sunday Bulletin. Please prayerfully consider if you can help out somewhere.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Sunday, April 3

Luau Party - all youth are invited to join us for a little piece of Hawaii right here in Pleasantville!

All Youth: 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Friday, April 8

Grease by Westlake Players - a group from PYC will be seeing the show, RSVP to Bryan!

Sunday, April 10

Mystery Game - be sure to join us for a very mysterious night!

High School - 6:00 - 8:00pm

Sunday, April 17

Middle School Progressive Dinner - join us for this journey!

Middle School - 4:00 - 6:00pm

Graffiti Night - come on by for everyone's favorite, graffiti night!

High School - 6:00 - 8:00pm

Sunday, April 24

Progressive Dinner - make sure to be there for this roving, rollicking good time!

High School: 6:00 - 8:00pm

Sunday, May 1

Neighbors Link - this week, we will be volunteering to support Neighbors Link!



Spring back into Youth Group

Your friendly, neighborhood Youth Council has been hard at work planning an AWESOME spring, just for you! We'll kick it off with a Luau, complete with music, food and games - bonus points for whomever has the loudest Hawaiian shirt. We are also heading over to Westlake High School on Friday night to see them perform *Grease*, if you want to join us, RSVP to Bryan ASAP, we'll be leaving from the church at 7:30pm. We'll round up the month with a real mystery night, graffiti night, and two progressive dinners!

April also means Rummage! Rummage week is April 24 - 30, they need lots of help on Sunday, April 24 and Saturday, April 30. Volunteering is fun, earns you volunteer hours and let's you shop at the volunteer only shopping day on Thursday afternoon.



Our church is piloting a new type of service beginning on Saturday, May 7, at 5pm. Be sure to come by for some quiet contemplation, smooth music and an inspiring message. We hope to see you there!

APRIL

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|---------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm. | 2 |
| 3 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Intergenerational Worship 10am Childcare 11:15am Mission Mtg. 3pm ASP Business Mtg. 4pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group | 4 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 914-426- 0886 | 5 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women’s Bible Fwshp | 6 7:30pm Evening Women’s Bible Fellowship | 7 | 8 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm. | 9 |
| 10 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare/Sunday School 3pm ASP Business Mtg. 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6pm Sr. High Youth Group | 11 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 914-426- 0886 | 12 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women’s Bible Fwshp | 13 7:30pm Session Meeting | 14 9:30am E&M Mtg. | 15 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm. | 16 9:30am Women’s Brunch |
| 17 ASP Skillbuilding | 18 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 914-426- 0886 | 19 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women’s Bible Fwshp | 20 7:30pm Evening Women’s Bible Fellowship | 21 | 22 | 23 Pre-Rummage Set-Up – Camp. Rm., Libr. FH, K, 103, 104, 105. |
| 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare/Sunday School 11:15am Youth Council Mtg. 4pm Jr. High Youth Group 6pm Sr. High Youth Group | | | | | | |
| 24 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare/Sunday School 11:15am Deacon’s Meeting 6pm Sr. High Youth Group | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 RUMMAGE SALE Fri. 9am-5pm Sat. 9am-1pm |
| Pre-Rummage Set-Up – Camp. Rm., Library, FH, K, 103, 104, 105, 106 | | | | | | |



Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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Church News in Pictures



Thanks for Marleni Ruano and family for making palm crosses and teaching us how to make them on Palm Sunday.
Pictured: Janet Gortsema, Marleni, Ashley and Kamelle Ruano.



David Fourie and Bryan Bardin led a group at the "Congregational Ministry Summit" to talk about how our congregation might use digital communication to reach those within our congregation (near and far away) and those who will become a part of our church family.



As part of introducing our new Photo Directory, we display some nostalgic Photo Directories from the past. They were a big hit!



On March 20th we heard from some of our youngest singers!