



The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING

“Zero Waste” Pot Luck Lunch

April 8th

Everyone is invited, and all are welcome to join us on Sunday, April 8th following worship for a pot luck lunch to introduce Caring for Creation, part of our environmental initiative to reduce waste and tread lightly on our earth. Our goal at this lunch is to have NOTHING in our garbage cans, and to have everything at the event be reusable, recyclable or compostable!

Ron Schulhof and Michelle Sterling will be here to introduce Zero Waste to our congregation. They will share what other houses of worship in Westchester have done to reduce waste. They will also speak about the municipal/residential food scrap recycling program that has been instituted in Scarsdale. Through this program residents can now collect their food scraps at home and bring them to a spot in the town where they get carted off-site and turned into compost.

Ron and Michelle partnered with their town, starting the program in January 2017, and it has been a huge success. In fact, several other Westchester towns have started it as well, and many are on the cusp. Pleasantville has expressed interest in starting a site for our residents and Pleasantville officials including the mayor, Peter Scherer, have

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Looking into the Church's Future

“What we Heard at the Listening Sessions”

Late last year, Pastor Debbie and David Fourie led a listening session that aimed to look into the future of Pleasantville Presbyterian Church. Four sessions and 30 voices later, we are more inspired than ever to build the future of the church.

Below are a few of the ideas that came from the listening sessions:

- Men's ministries - starting with Men's Breakfast
- Radical Beauty Photography
- Cooking Classes
- Intergenerational programs & ministries
- Caring for Creation
- Associate / Intern Program - which was one of the most unique and exciting ideas to come from the "looking into the church's future" project. *(see pg. 0 for more details)*

Easter Worship
10am

Alleluia!

**The Easter
Egg-Stravaganza
After Worship**

Kids should bring a basket and a dozen eggs filled with goodies.



Church Rummage Sale!

Sale Days

April 20 - 9am-5pm
April 21 - 9am-1pm



Drop-Off Days April 15, 16 & 17

Helping Days

Saturday, April 14, 9:30-10:30am
Sunday, April 15, 1-5pm
Monday - Thursday, 9am-5pm
Monday & Tuesday also 7-9pm

Cleanup Help Really Needed

Saturday - 1-4pm

Babysitting Available

Thursday for Pre-shop
Friday morning for Sale
Other times - according to need

A Letter of Thanks from Maria

Dear Pleasantville Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for being another safe sanctuary for me, a home away from home. I have felt the warmth and kindness every time I walked into that building- through smiles, laughter, hugs and handshakes. Thank you for making me feel welcome, for encouraging me to go after the things that I need to walk towards, for the prayers said for me during the time I have been there, and hopefully you continue to pray for me while I am gone.

To the amazing staff and leadership of this church, I am so grateful that you took a chance on me! Because of you, I had one of the most fulfilling years I had had in awhile. To Pastor Debbie and Jane and Jo Anna who I worked closely with, thank you for everything, for your hard work, your patience with me and most all for your kindness and generosity. You have been there for me in so many ways that I can never thank you enough. I am very grateful for your listening ears and for being interested in my life. Thank you for being there for me even at the drop of a text or call. You have lifted me up and helped me gain new perspectives on life. Thank you for letting me be a part of something that is much bigger than myself.

Thank you for caring about the little details of everyday life that I might have missed or ignored.

Many of you have showed me that trust and integrity really does exist in the world and it is worth finding, no matter where one is. To those who have opened their doors and welcomed me into their homes, thank you for making me feel part of your family. To those who reached out to me to go to lunch or a coffee, those gestures spoke volumes to me. Those who reached out to help me in various ways, thank you. To my ladies in Hearts and Hands, I am already missing you - I value the time I spent with you all. I have learned a good habit of packing lunch or running out to buy one on Tuesdays in honor of our time together - I am still working on the dessert thing. I want to thank you for being involved and showing me the face of humility and compassion.

Last, but not least, I thank you for the little things in life; for listening to my children's sermons, for the chocolates and flowers, for cards and letters, and for delicious meals some of you have shared with me. Thank you for letting me work, play and laugh with your children. I will always cherish the jokes, smiles and giggles you shared with me.

More updates to come.
Amahoro n'Imigisha (Peace and blessings),
Maria Murerwa
(Our former Director of Children and Youth Ministries)

Pastor Debbie on Easter

Dear Friends in Christ,

This Lent has been a real blessing – as a time to be present with the walk to the cross that Jesus made is an invitation into what is real in life – even when what is real is incredibly hard.

As you receive this newsletter – we will be in the liberation that is Easter – free to see the world through the good news that Christ is Risen, Christ is Risen indeed!

I love throughout the Lent and Easter season to take the journey with Ann Weems, reading the poetry she calls Kneeling in Jerusalem. Here is the gift of her poem called Easter.

Easter
Just when I thought
there would be no more light
in the Jerusalem sky,
the Bright and Morning Star
appeared
and the darkness has not overcome it.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Debbie

Church News

Creating the Future: Associate Program

The Associate Program is an opportunity for young adults to live and work within a community, helping to build the church of tomorrow.

To our potential Associates: we will provide you an opportunity to grow in your faith and explore what's next in your life. We know you are committed to making a difference through our Christian ministry and we want to support you utilizing your unique gifts and backgrounds to create an impact. Whether you are a seminarian, a communication major, an educator or an artist—whatever your skills—we hope you will bring them together to help us dream the next chapter of Pleasantville Presbyterian Church.

Intergenerational Faith Development Associate: Working with the vital Christian Education programs of the church, you will help us meet today's children, youth and adults where they are. Maybe you will create curriculum or find and implement exciting resources. You could develop new programs and support current intergenerational ministries. With special attention to experiential mission and acts of compassion.

Mission And Social Responsibility Associate: Working with the church's mission and justice ministries, you will help develop future opportunities for our congregation's growth. We hope you will help us go deeper in some of the areas of mission and responsibility our congregation has a passion for, including: outreach to immigrants, poverty in central Appalachia, food insecurity and hunger, and environmental responsibility.

Digital Connections Associate: Working with digital technology and our current Digital Connections Outreach, you will work collaboratively with our Digital Connections team to grow this modern ministry. We hope you will help connect with people beyond our walls. Whether that's through YouTube, Facebook, Email Blasts (which we currently do, but could certainly do better) or something we don't even know to consider, we want you to help us bring faith experience into the digital world.

Men's Breakfast Returns!

Next One is

April 7th, 7:30am

On March 10th we renewed our Men's Breakfast ministry in the Library. An enthusiastic group of ten men attended. We had a great breakfast cooked by Chef Pono and discussed ideas for the future of this ministry. We decided to have monthly breakfasts.

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Zero Waste Pot Luck Lunch

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visited the Scarsdale site. Perhaps we can even create a support base for the program that would then reach out to our local representatives. It may be all that is needed to get the program started in Pleasantville, which would be wonderful.

Everyone who will be bringing food, please be sure to use a **reusable** dish or if that's not possible then a **recyclable** dish such as a foil serving dish with a foil cover (no saran wrap).

We hope that you will enjoy participating in this environmentally friendly event!

“Solarize Our Congregation” Visited on March 11th

As part of our Caring for Creation initiative, we had the honor of being the first church in the Presbytery to host **Sunrise Solar Solutions!** They came to speak about and illustrate their state of the art solar energy installations available for our church and homes.

HRP Green, a volunteer partnership of the Hudson River Presbytery, is offering our congregation this unique opportunity to solarize with Sunrise at discounted pricing, along with a \$240 donation to our church for each solar installation by a member or friend of our congregation who signs a contract by June 4, 2018. For more information visit SolarizeOurCongregation.org or call Sunrise at 914 762-7662. Be sure to mention Solarize Our Congregation when you call.

Church News

News from our Scholarship Committee

As a means of encouraging church members to donate to the church's scholarship fund, last month's newsletter printed a note from a scholarship recipient which expressed his/her appreciation for the award and how much it has meant to him/her.

Here is some information designed to further encourage donations, This data is from 2015 (more current data is not yet available, but it most likely hasn't gone down :) "The average annual increase in college tuition from 1980-2014 grew by nearly 260% compared to the nearly 120% increase in all consumer items. In 1980, the average annual cost of tuition, room and board, and fees at a four-year post-secondary institution was \$9,438, according to the Department of Education. That number has since climbed to \$23,872."

Each year, the Scholarship Committee receives requests for aid; consequently, we need your help in replenishing our funds. Please think about making a donation to help our students--checks may be made out to the Pleasantville Presbyterian Church with "Scholarship Fund" noted in the memo. Many thanks!

No amount is too small.

Children's Day Fiesta!

Sunday, April 29 at 1pm
Fellowship Hall

Celebrating our local immigrant community with pizza, crafts, games, piñatas.

Women's Brunch

Saturday, April 14th
9 - 11:30am

Christine Alvis
on her spiritual journey

Come for the *delicious food*
and *wonderful fellowship*

Church Youth in High School Plays

Our church people are very involved in the local high school plays. We have many youth and also many adults who work on these wonderful productions.

Pleasantville High School presented "The Sound of Music" in March. Participating from our congregation and Youth Group were:

Cast: Logan Bronkema, Gabe Finehout, Katrina Kelly, Madison Kelly, Kyle Largey, Kamelle Ruano, Carter Tanis, Ben Trombeta.

Crew: Kamelle Ruano, Jack

Ecumenical Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for the week of August 6-10 for EVBS at Emanuel Lutheran Church. We are beginning to plan for this fun and meaningful week, and volunteers are needed for both large and small jobs.

If you would like to help with the EVBS planning committee, or have questions, talk with Nicole Browand.



Saturday, April 7th
5pm

Join us for soothing, contemporary music and a time to pause from your busy life.

All are welcome

Women's Bible Fellowship

Every Tuesday

10-11:30am

In the Campbell Room

We are reading
"The Way of the Heart"
by Henri Nouwen
Join us!

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 \$585.00 was donated! Here are some examples from PCUSA of the impact of your gifts: providing clean water projects to help eradicate disease and transform communities in over 20 countries, providing hunger relief to families through distributions of seeds for farming and nutrition instruction and empowering volunteers who work across the globe to serve the needs of and empower impoverished communities. Thank you for your support.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

April 1st

Easter -10:00 am service

Egg Hunt after church for the younger kids-help hide the eggs!

No PYC-Enjoy family time!

April 7th

Evening Rhythms- 5:00 pm

Come experience the presence of God at this service of music and contemplation

April 8th

Pizza & movie night 5:00-7:00 pm

Come hang out and bring a friend.

April 15th

Bonfire Fun at the Torosians

5:00-7:00 pm- We will have dinner and make s'mores and more and more and more...

April 22nd

Game night 5:00-7:00 PM

We will meet at the church, have dinner and play, play, play

April 29th

5:00-7:00 pm-To be determined



Happy SPRING!



Youth Group Dinner

Middle School Retreat

9 of our Middle School youth attended a retreat at the Johnsonburg Presbyterian Center in New Jersey. They spent their time bonding through zip lining and speakers and all kinds of fun.



APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 8:45am Chancel Choir Practice 10am Intergenerational Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Mission Meeting	2	3 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	4 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	5 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm	6 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	7 7:30am Men's Breakfast 5pm Evening Rhythms 6:30pm Set-up for Earth Day Celebration
8 8:45am Chancel Choir Practice 10am Intergenerational Worship Childcare in the Nursery 11am Celebrating Earth Day 5pm Youth Grp - Pizza & Movie 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9	10 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	11 7:30pm Session Mtg.	12 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm	13	14 Pre-Rummage Set-Up - Camp. Rm., Libr. FH, K, 103, 104. 9am PW Womens Brunch - FH
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 RUMMAGE SALE Fri. 9am-5pm Sat. 9am-1pm
Pre-Rummage Set-Up - Camp. Rm., Library, FH, K, 103, 104, 105, 106						
22 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 5pm Youth Grp. - Bonfire offsite	23	24 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	25 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	26 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm.	27 6pm English Class - Campbell Rm.	28
29 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 1pm Children's Day Party - FH 5pm Youth Grp. - TBD	30					



Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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Church News

Rummage is Coming!

There's Something for Everyone!

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.

Wanted!

Rummage Sale Bags

- Grocery bags - plastic or paper
- Department store bags
- Gift bags with handles

Please put them in the box in the foyer. Thanks!

Spread the Word About Rummage

Please invite friends and neighbors to come work or shop. If you'd like to put a flyer up near you, please let Ruth Fisher or Barb Loizeaux know.

Men's Breakfast

(cont'd from pg. 4)

Our mission is to have a safe and loving place for men to congregate. We will have the kinds of breakfasts that any man would enjoy. We'll generally throw in a healthy food item every month as well.

We'll have interesting discussions: current events and issues, travel slide shows, religion, culture, etc. We encourage all, as they desire, to suggest topics, lead discussions or arrange for guest presenters.

Men, we'd love for you to join in the fun! Please email the Church office info@pvillepresby.org or Mark Zarick menministries@pvillepresby.org if you can attend so that we can plan the food. If you forget to RSVP, we always have extra food.

For the April breakfast we have decided to have the first of a semi-regular series on commonalities and differences between religions. The logical place to start is "What Does it Mean to You to be Presbyterian?"