



January 2018

The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING

Christmas and Advent Worship and Events!

Here are some glimpses of our Advent and Christmas worship, pageant, craft making and Posada.



Evening Rhythms
Relax. Reflect. Recharge

January 6th at 5pm

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

Invite a friend or neighbor!

Broadway Musical Event

Sunday, January 21st

Do you love Broadway music? Come enjoy some favorite Broadway tunes and have a wonderful time of fellowship with friends. On Sunday afternoon, January 21st at 3pm in the sanctuary, Presbyterian Women will sponsor a delightful musical program, **Lights on Broadway**.

This program features the Scarborough Singers and is directed by Nell Macdonald. The music will transport you through almost 100 years of well-loved and well-known melodies from Broadway shows. All are welcome. Refreshments will follow. Free will offering.

Pastor Debbie on Questions to ask yourself in 2018

*"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."
—Romans 12:1-2*

Dear Friends,

As we begin 2018 - we are reminded once again of the gift that time is in our lives. How will we choose to live a transformed life - not conformed to this world, but relying on the power and grace and love of God?

The following questions have been helpful, as I've been thinking about the year to come. I'm passing them on to you for your reflection, and prayers for your journey into this new year.

- How does your experience of this most recent Christmas live on in your spirit?
- How do you want to use the 24 hours ahead of you - recognizing it is a gift from God?
- At the end of 2018 - what will matter most to you? What will you regret not doing?

2018

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Debbie

Dedicate Sanctuary Flowers in 2018



If you would like to dedicate the sanctuary flowers for a particular Sunday, please sign up on the flower chart which is on the bulletin board outside of the church office. Then, just make sure to write a check for \$50 and mark it "Flower Fund". This is a wonderful way to honor or remember a friend or family member or commemorate a special day in the life of your family.

Christmas Posada Party

The food was delicious, the songs were sweet, the piñatas were overflowing and the fellowship was warm as over 40 guests representing 8 countries gathered to celebrate Christmas.

A tradition of Mexico and Guatemala, the Posada includes a musical reenactment of Mary and Joseph looking for a room. Thanks to all who came and celebrated! (See pg. 7 for photo of piñata)



Save the Dates

Evening Rhythms	Jan 6
Youth Ski Trip/Retreat	Jan 13
Broadway Music Concert	Jan 21
Transitions Gathering	Jan 25
ASP Shareholders'	Jan 28
Congregational Meeting	Feb 4
Children's Sunday	Feb 11

Congregational Meeting February 3rd

Come to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation following worship on Sunday, February 3rd.

- You can hear about the committees and organizations of the church and read the 2017 Annual Report.
- The 2018 budget will be presented and the recommendations of the Nominating Committee.

It's a great way to find out what's going on in the congregation and learn how God is leading us. You can ask questions about programs, finances and get an idea of what's

Rummage Sale Survey

We will soon be planning the spring 2018 Rummage Sale. Your opinions will help us design a sale that will reflect the welcoming atmosphere of our church. The short survey can be found online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/YBXCJ2F, on the back page of this newsletter or in Sunday bulletins. All responses are anonymous. Completed paper surveys may be returned to the Church Office.

Church News



Mickie Eschweiler was recognized for her many years of service on the Scholarship Committee. Thanks Mickie!

Ring in The New Year!

Here is your chance to make a new resolution to “ring” in the New Year with the Brandywine Bell Choir. We will be picking up our bells and rehearsing starting on Tuesday, January 9th from 7:30 – 9pm in the Choir Room.

The 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 can be a short commitment. We rehearse for several weeks, then play during worship. If you are interested in joining us or want more information, contact Cathy Fellows .

Shareholders' Dinner

*Appalachia Service Project
Sunday, January 28th*

For all those who are interested in learning more about ASP and those who have contributed.



Hearts & Hands gathered for their Christmas celebration lunch. This is our ever- growing group that sews, knits and does other hand work for mission projects and fun.

POP Update for 2017

We are thankful for all the pledges we received in 2017 toward the Preserve Our Property Campaign. It's not too late for you to fulfill your pledge for this year or to add a new pledge!

Some highlights of what we completed in the church building so far are:

- the new women's bathroom
- the rehabilitation of the church library
- new floors in the Campbell Room
- new stained glass windows in our sanctuary (including new weatherproofing for the winter)
- air conditioning in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

Improvements at the Ashland Avenue manse include:

- new garage doors
- new windows and doors
- new energy efficient furnace.

Warmed up just in time for winter!

We have also updated the Carriage House electricity and have taken care of tree work at the Manse and on the church property. Quite a list of accomplishments for year one. Check out our website to see pictures! We will now turn our attention to projects in 2018 that will continue to improve the integrity and infrastructure of our four church buildings. The POP Committee wants to thank everyone who has helped move us forward.

Church News



Social Justice Interns selling Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate and olive oil as a fundraiser to support their mission

Ski Trip/ Retreat

January 13-14

Our annual Martin Luther King Jr. weekend ski trip and retreat is coming up soon. We will meet at the church on Saturday morning, January 13th, and drive to Butternut Mountain for a day of skiing. We will then head to Camp Jewel for some dinner, skating, snow tubing (weather permitting) and other fun and games. Sunday morning we'll have breakfast, play some more and be home by mid afternoon. Please see Maria ASAP if you haven't signed up yet!



Navigating Transitions

Thursday, January 25th
7:30-9pm

This 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.*

Do you Know Who I Am?

"Describe a time you saw a loving and caring parent provide for his or her son or daughter." This was the prompt from our study guide in the Tuesday Women's Bible Study.

Immediately I pictured my daughter Megan. The background: my husband and I were taking care of Megan's daughter, Autumn, for a few days at our house. Meg and our son-in-law had to be away. Autumn was just over a year old at the time. Though she felt comfortable being with Grandpa and me, it was clear that she would gladly have traded us in for her parents if she had the choice.

After about four days, Meg and my son-in-law returned. My husband was holding Autumn when Megan walked through the door. Meg stood in front of them, smiling at her daughter, and waited. There was no snatching of Autumn from Grandpa's arms, no overpowering, frenetic excitement. Megan stood with her arms at her sides, just looking at Autumn lovingly. And she waited - waited while Autumn, in her own time, processed her mother's arrival.

Megan asked her softly "Do you know who I am?" With that, Autumn gave a shriek of joy and threw herself into her mother's arms. As much as Megan wanted to hold her daughter again, as much as she wanted to shower her with kisses and murmur expressions of excitement and joy, she did something else first. She waited.

We told other stories of parental love in our Bible Study, and concluded, among other things, that, with joy and expectation, God lovingly waits for each of us.

by Eileen Walton

Daisy Mannino Travels to Puerto Rico

In November, I had the opportunity to go to Puerto Rico to help my family, friends, and community after the hurricane "Maria". Thanks to the generosity of Hearts and Hands, some Pleasantville Garden Club members, and personal donations, we were able to help the people of Puerto Rico with food and supplies such as toothpaste, soap, and toilet paper. With the help of Pastor Waldemar Soto and my sister Claribel we distributed the supplies to 16 families. Some of the donations were used to provide lunch for the students in the University of Puerto Rico and to contribute to the fundraiser "Rayito de Sol" that provides solar lamps to the families.

The people we helped were overwhelmed and extremely grateful for your greatly needed help. I just wanted to give you my heartfelt thanks for your generous donation to the needy people in Puerto Rico.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Saturday January 6th

Evening Rhythms

Saturday 5:00 pm

Come experience the presence of God, reflect and listen to amazing music!

Bring a friend!

January 7th

Youth Group Reunion-Junior and Senior High

Come and reunite with friends old and new from near and far

All are welcome 6:00-8:00 pm

Sat. Jan.13- Sun. Jan.14

Winter Retreat and Ski Trip- Junior and Senior High

Registration forms are now past due! Please see Maria ASAP

No Sunday night PYC

January 21st

Game Night- Take time to relax with games and friends. Dinner will be provided

5:00-7:00 pm MS

6:00-8:00pm HS

Sunday January 28th

ASP Dinner-6:00 pm

All are welcome. Bring your friends and family to find out more about this service trip


Youth Group Year in Review



Save the Date
Sunday,
February 4th
SuperBowl
Party

january



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp	3 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible	4 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm	5 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	6 5pm Evening Rhythms
7 8:45am Chancel Choir Practice 10am Intergenerational Worship Childcare in the Nursery 11am Advent Craft Fair 11:15am Mission Meeting 6pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth Grp.	8	9 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	10 7:30pm Session Mtg.	11 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm	12 6pm English Class - Campbell Rm.	13 Youth Ski Trip
14 Youth Ski Trip 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15	16 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	17 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible	18 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm	19 6pm English Class - Campbell Rm.	20
21 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 3pm PWL Special Event 5pm Jr. High Youth Group 6pm Sr. High Youth Group	22	23 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	24 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible	25 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm. 7:30pm Transitions	26 6pm English Class - Campbell Rm.	27
28 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 6pm ASP Dinner	29	30 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	31 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible			



Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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Rummage Sale Survey

Soon we will be planning the 2018 Rummage Sale. Whether you were a worker, shopper, donator, or observer please fill out this short anonymous survey and **return it to the Church Office.**

The 4-fold mission of Rummage is to:

- recycle and provide people goods at a reasonable price
- project a welcoming accepting attitude of our church
- provide fellowship for our workers
- raise money for church and other mission projects

I participated in Rummage as a: *(check all that apply)*

Volunteer worker Shopper Donator/Observer

Approximate hours contributed to the sale: _____

To rate each question below, circle a number from 0 (low) to 5 (high) and comment where applicable.

1. How would you rate the last Rummage Sale **overall** in meeting the goals listed above?

0 1 2 3 4 5 NA

Comments: _____

2. How closely do you feel Rummage projects our church's **accepting/welcoming attitude**?

0 1 2 3 4 5 NA

Comments: (What actions did you find welcoming or not welcoming?) _____

3. Please rate your **worker- fellowship** experience.

0 1 2 3 4 5 NA

Comments: (What met your needs as a worker? What would make it better for you?) _____

4. How fair do you feel our **unit pricing** reflects the **value** of the merchandise for sale?

0 1 2 3 4 5 NA

Comments: _____

5. How fair do you feel our **specialty rooms' pricing** (Better Clothes, French, Holiday, Kitchen, Electric, Linens, Toys, and Furniture) reflects the **value** of the merchandise for sale?

0 1 2 3 4 5 NA

Comments: (Please refer to specific rooms) _____

6. How satisfied were you with the amount of **money raised** in relation to the amount of work required?

0 1 2 3 4 5 NA

Comments: _____

7. Is there anything else you would like to share about the event? _____