



The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING

The Christmas Pageant & Craft-making

The shepherds arrived, the three kings brought their gifts, Jesus, Mary and Joseph found a room and we began our Advent season. Our annual Christmas pageant during worship was enjoyed by all and afterwards, many people stayed for craft-making and pasta. Thanks to Nicole Browand and team for the pageant and to Kat and Greg Nemeč for the craft-making!



Welcome New Member Hannah Scanlon

We were blessed to have our new Ministry Associate, Hannah Scanlon, become a member of our congregation in December. Hannah began her work at our church in September (see article in September news for more about her) and decided to begin the process of becoming ordained in the Presbyterian Church USA. She is also pursuing the possibility of getting a PhD in Theology. *Welcome Hannah!*

ASP Dinner & Applications

The Pleasantville Appalachia Service Project (ASP) Shareholders Dinner will be on Sunday, January 27th at 6pm. This dinner is our way of thanking those who supported this mission last year and welcoming those who are interested in volunteering in 2019. *(cont'd on pg. 4)*



**Pastor Debbie on
"Do Not be Afraid"**

Dear Friends,
This advent - we have been considering fear - and the role it plays in our lives. Over and over, we hear God tell God's people - Do not be afraid. This poem reminds me of the price of fear in our lives of faith. What would we have thought that Christmas time long ago - if we had been there? And how will we choose to go forward in faith in 2019?

HAD WE BEEN THERE - by Ann Weems

Into the stable they straggled, poor and dirty,
hardly suitably dressed for polite society.
Had we been Joseph we would have feared robbery.
Had we been Mary we would have feared germs around our newborn.
Had we been God
these are not ones we would have chosen to first come and see the Child.
After all, they showed a certain carelessness about the rules of the church.
And yet, God-chosen, they came to kneel and worship him whom we would later call the Good Shepherd.
Perhaps we could brush up on our humbleness.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Debbie



Save the Dates

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Men's Breakfast</i> | <i>Jan 5</i> |
| <i>Parents of Youth -</i> | <i>Jan 6</i> |
| | |
| <i>Social Justice Film</i> | <i>Jan 17</i> |
| <i>ASP Dinner</i> | <i>Jan 27</i> |
| <i>Annual Meeting</i> | <i>Feb 3</i> |
| <i>Souper Bowl Sunday</i> | <i>Feb 3</i> |
| <i>Confirmation Meeting</i> | <i>Feb 3</i> |
| <i>Children's Sunday</i> | <i>Feb 10</i> |
| <i>Intergenerational Learning</i> | <i>Feb 28</i> |

**Come Teach
Sunday School!**

As the new year begins, why not consider becoming a part of the Sunday School teaching team. Teaching Sunday School is a fun and rewarding way to be more engaged with your faith, with our church, and with our kids.

For more information, talk with Nicole Browand or email info@pvillepresby.org.



Dedicate Flowers

If you would like to dedicate the flowers for a particular Sunday, please sign up on the flower chart which is in the CE foyer. 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.



**Interested in Being
a Liturgist?**

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 Kathy Brown at info@pvillepresby.org.

**The Continuation of the
Annual Meeting**

Come to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation following worship on Sunday, February 3rd. Come hear about the committees and organizations of the church, read the 2018 Annual Report plus you can review the 2019 budget and hear 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 ahead. All are invited!

Church News

Special Offerings in 2018

Several times a year we are given an opportunity to play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church. Over the years, these offerings have provided ways for individuals and congregations to join together with each other and in partnership with other Christians in responding to a variety of concerns. These efforts include bringing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, helping to empower the poor and oppressed, promoting peace and social justice, providing education and leadership development, and assisting current and retired church workers in need. This year our congregation donated \$1,607 to these causes. Thank you for your support.

Building a Community of Stewards



We are grateful for the ever-growing community of stewards here at Pleasantville Presbyterian. We are a joyful and vibrant community overflowing with God's love and hopefulness for the new year 2019. We are nurtured by the new energy our Ministry Associates bring us each week, by our joyful worship services and by the expanding digital footprint we have in the community at large. You are encouraged to be a part of the exciting ministries and missions we accomplish together. You are our faithful community of stewards. Thank you for your financial pledge of support this year.



Men's Breakfast is Growing!

The December Men's breakfast set a record with 16 men attending! They came to hear Victor Corona's thoughtful talk about Mexico and the challenging societal issues being faced by law abiding citizens there. Drug cartels and government corruption are just a couple of the problems. Victor used the experiences of his family there to demonstrate the frustration and fears being faced by Mexicans. We all walked away with a new perspective.

Join us on January 5th at 7:30am for our next Men's Breakfast. Jeff Thomas will be the speaker and he will discuss his time living in Qatar and his thoughts on the Arab world. Become a part of this growing brotherhood. See you there!

Men's Bible Fellowship

The Tuesday Bible Fellowship continues in its study of Ephesians. Our group continues to grow with 5-7 men involved. Under Perry Wooten's leadership we are asking some great questions about the Bible and our lives. The discussions have been thoughtful and we are learning a lot.

At the December 18th meeting we had a special session about the real meaning of Christmas with people sharing their favorite Bible readings and thoughts. We are taking a holiday break and will begin again on Tuesday, January 8th. Please come!

ASP Dinner

(cont'd from pg. 1)



If you are interested in participating in 2019, the dates for the trip are July 20-28, 2019. Interested volunteers who have not yet received an application should send a request to Gail Zarick at asp@pvillepresby.org. Applications to participate in the Pleasantville ASP 2019 mission are due at the Shareholders Dinner.

Church News



Social Justice Film Screening and Dialogue Recap

Social justice in action! Ten members of the congregation joined the larger community for a screening of "The Feeling of Being Watched," at the Jacob Burns Theater in December. A documentary of an Arab-American Chicago-based neighborhood that fell under heavy government surveillance prior to 9/11, the film was an empowering and timely reminder that individuals with a clear-eyed vision of the good life can initiate positive change in their slice of the world.

Highlighting Assia's mother, neighbors, family, and members of her faith community, the film was also a testament to the power and importance of supportive community in the lives of these change-makers. In addition, the film was posed as a prompt to the audience – asking us to resist passivity, call out injustice as we see it and work for a more fair and equitable world.

POP Update for 2018

We are thankful for all the pledges we received in 2018 toward year two of the Preserve Our Property (POP) 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's in progress or been completed in 2018 include:

- a brand new roof on the Christian Education (CE) building
- rooftop Solar Panels to power the Sanctuary and the CE Building
- exterior repainting and repairing of the CE wing
- landscaping and mulch around the sanctuary and manse
- new Bride's Room doors in the sanctuary,
- front gable repair and new paint and curtains at the manse and
- interior and exterior repairs and upgrades in the carriage house including landscaping and new steps and doors.

In 2019 we will turn our attention to projects that continue improving the integrity and infrastructure of our properties, the largest being repaving our parking lot. The POP Committee wants to thank everyone who has helped and is helping us to move forward into year three.

Pre-School Registration Begins

Great Beginnings, our church's pre-school, is currently registering 2½, 3, and 4 year olds for September 2019. 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 because church families receive a tuition discount. Brochures and registration forms are available on the blue bookshelf in the CE wing. For more information call Ruth Fischer at 769-0826 or www.great-beginnings.org.

Confirmation Class for 8th & 9th Graders

Informational Meeting
for participants and their parents

Sunday, February 3rd
After worship

If you can't attend the meeting,
but are interested,
please let Pastor Debbie know.

What is Democracy?



Social Justice Film
Screening & Dialogue

Thursday, January 17th

7pm at Jacob Burns Film Center

Part of a "documentary series that untangles the stories behind the headlines, the films shed light in dark corners, and introduce us to the people working to make the world a better place." The film will be followed by a Q&A with the director. PPC is sponsoring a handful of tickets, so please reach out to skyler@pvillepresby.org if you are interested. Open to all...please join us. More details can be found [here](#).

Intergenerational Learning

SAVE THE DATE!

On Thursday, February 28th we will be hosting our very first intergenerational learning opportunity. We will meet at 6pm to enjoy a pot luck supper together and then the hard part will be deciding which "class" to attend. The three choices are:

- Writing as a Spiritual Practice
- Sustainability and
- Vegan Cooking.

Bring a friend and learn something new!

Youth Group News

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

We're growing! - Beginning **January 13**, youth group will be splitting into Sr. and Jr. High. We are really pleased with how we've been growing in numbers, thanks to our youth who have been bringing their friends in record numbers! It's because of this growth that we are happy to be able to offer a youth group for 5-7th graders in the fellowship hall as well as a youth group for 8-12th graders in the upstairs youth room. The youth groups will be happening at the same time from 5-7 every Sunday night and will come together at 6 for dinner.

New Youth Group Covenant – Recently, the Pastoral Associates have created a Pleasantville Presbyterian Youth Group covenant. We wanted to provide the Church, youth leaders, youth, and their parents with a common, positive vision for what we're about at youth group. We will be sending copies of the covenant home with your youth to sign and bring back. We ask that parents look it over with their youth so that everyone knows about who we are and what we do at youth group 😊

Calling all Parents! – Put it on your calendar! During youth group on **January 6**, the Pastoral Associates will be hosting an informational meeting and Q&A time for parents of our youth. We want to provide a time for parents to get to know us, to tell us about their kids, and to ask us any questions they have about what we're about at youth group. We will also have a sign up for parents who want to help provide dinner for youth group during the spring months. Youth Council members will be holding Youth group at the same time as the meeting.



January Schedule

12/30/18- Games and fun!
1/6/19 - Parent Info Session
during youth group
1/13/19 – First night of
Jr./Sr. high
1/20/19 - Games and fun!
1/27/19 - Bowling Night!

Questions? Comments? Just want to say hi?

Contact your Associates!


katelyn@pvillepresby.org

skTyler@pvillepresby.org

hannah@pvillepresby.org



January 2019

| <u>Sunday</u> | <u>Monday</u> | <u>Tuesday</u> | <u>Wednesday</u> | <u>Thursday</u> | <u>Friday</u> | <u>Saturday</u> |
|--|---------------|--|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| | | 1  <i>New Year's Day</i> | 2 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship | 3 6pm Community Dinner 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm | 4 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm | 5 7:30am Men's Bkfst |
| 6 8:45am Chancel Choir Practice 10am Intergenerational Worship Childcare in the Nursery 5pm Youth Group | 7 | 8 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Men's Bible Fellowship | 9 7:30pm Session Mtg. | 10 6pm Community Dinner 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm | 11 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm | 12 |
| 13 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Childcare in the Nursery 5pm Youth Group 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 14 | 15 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Men's Bible Fellowship | 16 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship | 17 6pm Community Dinner 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm | 18 | 19 |
| 20 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Childcare in the Nursery 11:30am Adult Ed. 5pm Youth Grp | 21 | 22 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Men's Bible Fellowship | 23 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship | 24 6pm Community Dinner 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm | 25 6pm English Class - Campbell Rm | 26 |
| 27 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Deacon's Meeting 5pm Youth Group 6pm ASP Dinner | 28 | 29 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Men's Bible Fellowship | 30 7pm Stewardship Mtg 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship | 31 6pm Community Dinner 6pm Spanish Class - Campbell Rm. | | |


 "Everything has become new!"
 

2 Corinthians 5:17, NRSV

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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Parents of Youth - New Year Kickoff

Youth Group News

All parents of Youth Group members are invited to the Campbell Room on **January 6th**, at **5pm** to learn more about Youth Group. This will be a time for the three Ministry Associates to answer questions from parents, and to allow parents to get to know the Youth Leaders who are spending time with their kids each week. At this meeting, we will also assess parent interest in the possibility of holding a weekly or monthly parent meet-up during youth group. The idea is that parents of our youth will have a casual, relaxing space to get together, chat and share their common experience of being a parent of a middle/high schooler. Youth Group will still be held during this time with the help of Youth Council members. **Questions? Ask Skyler, Hannah or Katelyn.**

Christmas Music and Fellowship



Our annual Posada Christmas celebration, on December 15th, was attended by over 45 people who enjoyed great food, music, fellowship and of course...piñatas. (left, right and below)



We were blessed by the beautiful and inspiring music of the Choir on December 16th as they celebrated the Christmas season with song.

