



The Good News Letter

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING



Our annual Christmas pageant during worship was a great success, and afterwards many people stayed for craft-making and treats.

Thanks to Nicole Browand and team for the pageant, and to Kat and Greg Nemeč for the craft-making!



Justin brought a wonderful Norwegian tradition to our church this month by baking a traditional "Kransekake", a cake made for special occasions, such as the baptism we celebrated for Kelci Williams. Thank you Justin!

Mission Statement

We are a people of God seeking to proclaim and live out the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We are called by God through the Holy Spirit to serve as a spiritual presence in our community:

- ◆ Nurturing spiritual growth and renewal;
- ◆ Providing sanctuary in a fast-paced world;
- ◆ Reaching out and sharing Christ with all;
- ◆ Passing on our faith to the next generation;
- ◆ Serving God through mission outreach.

Our love and prayers go out to.....

Joseph Makosky
Alex, Sally & Pete Demeropolous
Heather Gilson
Betty deLaive
Taek-Sang Shin (Young Ran Shin's father)
Eileen Edwards
Christine Alvis' Mom, Marjorie Deutschmann
Eileen Edward's daughter, Jennifer
Don Bevill, Nicole Browand's step-father
Frank Gortsema
Rose Kantenwein
Dave Johnson
Co Holby
Baek Hap Kim (T.S. Kim's mother)
Bill Schmitz
Tom Levine
Christine Buyce
Gobin Latchoo

February deadline: January 15, 2020

Staff The Rev. Dr. Debra J. K. Bronkema, *Pastor*
Ruth Fischer, *Director of Great Beginnings Pre-School*
Jane Wong, *Project Mission Coordinator*
Dr. David Macdonald, *Music Director*
Evan Closser, *Organist*
Wendy Zaros, *Soloist*
Justin Hylden, *Ministry Associate*
Katelyn Westervelt, *Ministry Associate*
Jo Anna Tivnan, *Office Administrator*

Contact The Church Phone (914) 769-0458 Email Info@pvillepresby.org;
Info on the Web Website www.PvillePresby.org
Facebook Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

Newsletter Staff *Editor* - Amy Williams; *Proofreaders*- Christina Campriello and Leslie Quimby

Pastor Debbie

The church is Epiphany.
We are the Magi searching,
 resplendent in this world's accourterments
 of knowledge and wealth and achievement.
But we search for something more.
And – of all unlikely places –
 in a stable
 the Deity appears.
The borning of our Lord
 bursts in upon our ordinary lives
 like fireworks in the snow.
Only God would send a little baby King,
 and we are on our knees
 where we are within reach of our full
personhood.

From Ann Weems Poem "The Church Year"

Pastor Debbie



Save the Dates

Men's Breakfast	Jan 4
Photo Exhibit	Jan 18-19
Stop the Bleed	Jan 19
ASP Dinner	Jan 29
Men's Breakfast	Feb. 1
Annual Meeting	Feb 2
Souper Bowl Sunday	Feb 2
Children's Sunday	Feb 9

Annual Meeting

Come to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation following worship on Sunday, February 2nd. Come hear about the committees and organizations of the church, read the 2019 Annual Report, review the 2020 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!

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.



connect faith
where creativity, spirituality, and justice meet



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 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.



PHOTO EXHIBIT Jan. 18-19

PLEASE contribute one photo or many for our second community wide photography exhibit. Although the stated theme is "New Beginnings," we welcome any and all prints.

Last time we showed 75 prints in the library. This time the exhibit will take place in The Hub... just think about those long blank walls! All the particulars can be found on the church website www.pvillepresby.org or please see Katelyn or Jane with questions.

Church News

ASP Dinner & Applications

The Pleasantville Appalachia Service Project (ASP) Shareholders Dinner will be on January 26th at 6 pm. This dinner is our way of thanking those who supported this mission last year and welcoming those who are interested in volunteering in 2020. If you are interested in participating in 2020, the dates for the trip are July 18-26, 2020. 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 2020 mission are due at the Shareholders Dinner.



Special note to adults (over 25) and parents: Please consider volunteering in 2020! This mission cannot be accomplished without a critical mass of adult volunteers. Your willingness to volunteer enables us to say "yes" to youths who want to volunteer.



Gun Violence Prevention

To those who attended our Gun Violence Prevention meeting last February, as well as those who've been added to our email list since then:

A program is being planned for our church, but we'd like to have your input before pursuing it. Therefore, we'd like to meet with you in the next few weeks. Please watch your emails for notification of this meeting.

Thank you! ~ Melanie Tripp

Welcome New Members: Gomez/Obando Family

My wife, Maria, and I, along with our children Marcus, Matias, Lucia and Daniela moved to Pleasantville on June of 2016. Marcus is 16 and is a junior at Westlake High School. Matias, 10, and Lucia, 8, are in 5th and 3rd grade respectively in Columbus Elementary School, and Daniela is a Kindergartener at Hawthorne Elementary School. Maria, born in Paraguay and myself, a native of Peru, met in New York City in 2007, and have been together ever since.

We wanted to start going to church in our new neighborhood and were prepared to go to different ones, but we decided to go to Pleasantville Presbyterian Church because we received a postcard from the church encouraging us to attend a service. After our first service, we were very happy and decided to continue attending this church.

Scholarship Committee Update

As our high school students begin to hear from colleges, it's time to remind everyone of our Pleasantville Presbyterian Scholarship. The scholarship, which is available to anyone of our church seeking help paying for their tuition, could use some additional monies. Please consider adding this fund to your list of charitable causes. On behalf of past, current and future scholarship recipients, we thank you!

Church News



Thanksgiving 2019 was a joyful occasion at Pleasantville Presbyterian Church! The bacon wrapped turkeys were moist, the cranberries sweet, and the company a delight. We had 41 total guests from the church and surrounding community. It was fun visiting with people from all walks of life and giving thanks for all of God's blessings.

Pre-School Registration Begins

Great Beginnings, our church's pre-school, is currently registering 2½, 3, and 4 year olds for September 2020. 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.

STOP THE BLEED

People can bleed to death in as little as 5 to 8 minutes, but help can take much longer to arrive. That means that by-standers have enormous responsibility, enormous power. In many cases, survival depends on someone who just happens to be near.

What if you are that nearest person? What if you are there when your neighbor is careless with his saw, when your child slices his arm instead of the bread, when the car ahead of you hits a tree? Call 911. Then what?

STOP THE BLEED! Immediately.

How?

That's the important question that PW hopes to help answer. PW is offering a class taught by the Pleasantville Ambulance Corps team especially trained to teach ordinary people how to do this extraordinary thing – save a life.

The class is open at no cost to those interested in expanding their capacity to help. It's a short, no-homework, hands-on class sponsored by your Presbyterian Women.

It will cost you nothing other than attendance and attention.

Who should take the class?

- 1) Adults and older teens
- 2) Teachers and youth leaders
- 3) Serious Christians
- 4) Parents
- 5) You

When?

Sunday, January 19, from 2 to 3 pm

Where?

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church
To be sure of your place in the class, sign up as soon as possible.

Contact Ruth Fischer and/or sign up in Fellowship Hall right after church.

Youth Group News



General Info:

- We meet on Sundays from 5pm-7pm
- Junior High welcomes all 6th-8th graders to join!
- Senior High welcomes all

Calendar:

- January 5 — Fun & Games
- January 10-12 — Middle School Retreat
(Flyer and email to come with details)
- January 12 — Fun & Games
- January 19 — No youth group (Have a great long weekend!)
- January 26 — Food Challenge Games



Staff:

Junior High Youth Group


Justin Hylden — justin@pvillepresby.org

Senior High Youth Group

Katelyn Westervelt — katelyn@pvillepresby.org

january



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 	2 6pm Community Dinner 6pm Spanish Class – Campbell Rm	3 6pm English Lessons – Campbell Rm	4 7:30am Men's Bkfst
5 8:45am Chancel Choir Practice 10am Worship Childcare in the Nursery 5pm Jr. High Youth Grp. 5pm Sr. High Youth Grp. 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6	7 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	8 7:30pm Session Mtg.	9 6pm Community Dinner 6pm Spanish Class – Campbell Rm	10 6pm English Lessons – Campbell Rm	11
12 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Childcare in the Nursery 5pm Jr. High Youth Grp. 5pm Sr. High Youth Grp.	13	14 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	15 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	16 6pm Community Dinner 6pm Spanish Class – Campbell Rm	17 6pm English Lessons – Campbell Rm	18 2pm Photo Exhibit
19	20	21 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	22 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	23 6pm Community Dinner 6pm Spanish Class – Campbell Rm	24 6pm English Class – Campbell Rm	25 8am Set-up for ASP Dinner
26 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Deacon's Meeting 5pm Jr. High Youth Grp. 5pm Sr. High Youth Grp. 6pm ASP Dinner	27	28 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	29 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	30 6pm Community Dinner 6pm Spanish Class – Campbell Rm	31 6pm English Class – Campbell Rm	

Happy New Year ♡ Happy New Year ♡ Happy New Year

Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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The Posada: "A wonderful Tradition, a joyful crowd".



On the rainy evening of Friday December 13th, a joyous group, made up of members of the congregation, English students, friends and visitors, gathered in the Campbell Room to celebrate a Mexican tradition: the Posada. A Posada is a way to remember how Mary and Joseph went door to door looking for a place to stay before Jesus was born.



The participants brought a variety of meals, traditional beverages and desserts. We sang, had a procession and broke some piñatas. At the end, everyone got an "aguinaldo," which is a little bag full of treats.

Thank you to everyone who came and celebrated with us!

