



# The Good News Letter

## Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING

### A NEW JAZZ VESPERS SERVICE

**Spirit-Filled Music — A Welcoming Place**

*Saturday, May 7 and June 4, at 5pm*

“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 - giving people space to experience the spirit of God.”



**Led by Rev. Debbie Bronkema and Ike Sturm**

*Come reflect, pray, heal and experience the presence of God through music.*

### Pleasantville Hunger Project Update

This month we commissioned Jane Wong and the congregation as we begin our new outreach into the community. We also received the first installment of our grant from Hudson River Presbytery at the Presbytery meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>!

#### Update from our Project Mission Coordinator

There is not much to report on the new mission hunger project as of yet. We have started out slowly; just advertising in the high school for now since we are still in the application process with the Westchester Food Bank. Once a representative gives us an orientation, we will be able to use the Food Bank to purchase a majority of the items we will need to provide breakfast each weekday morning from 7:30- 8:30.

I would like to thank everyone for being so enthusiastic about the program. I very much appreciate that many of you have come forward to volunteer your time. As the program moves forward I will be calling for that help.

*Jane Wong*

### Contemplative, Spirit-Filled Jazz Vespers

We will begin a new worship service on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Our musicians will be led by Ike Sturm, who serves as the Music Director for St. Peter's Jazz Worship in Manhattan. We're excited about this opportunity to help people experience the presence of God through music. We're also pleased to be opening up another worship opportunity for those who are unable to be here on Sunday mornings.

The service will be a chance to renew your spirit, to feed your soul with the word of God, with silence, with reflection, with prayer, and with music that draws us together in community. There will be a place for children to be engaged in the worship service, and childcare will also be provided.

Who in your life would you like to invite to come with you to worship on May 7<sup>th</sup>? Hope to see you there!

### Appalachia Service Project

## Community Pancake Breakfast



**Saturday, May 14th**

Pleasantville Day

7am ~ 11am

## Pastor Debbie on Parables Around Us

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the things I learned when I travelled to Israel in the early 90's was that Jesus' parables and metaphors were often drawn from his surroundings. He saw fields and taught parables about seeds. He saw fishermen, and taught about fishing for people. He experienced the Sea of Galilee's roughness and lived out faith in God in the storms.

So I wonder – what do we see around us that points us toward the truths Jesus wants us to notice?

I'm writing this letter during the amazing, astounding preparations that happen as our church works toward the Rummage Sale. There are so many rummage parallels that come to mind. Rummage as a way to share – rummage as a way to unburden ourselves of our excesses – rummage as a way to remember we are connected.

I'm writing this letter while I'm getting ready for our church's' first jazz vespers service. Looking at

images and words, trying to do my best to understand how we can be welcoming to people – how a poster can say – this is a place you can come and be at home, find peace, hear that God's love is for you. Looking at the intersection points between music, scripture and prayer.

I'm writing this letter while I'm trying to imagine new ways to connect with our community – to be with people in times of joy and in times of sorrow. Whether we connect over dessert at the rummage lunches, or on the internet through some sort of digital connection – or by sharing a breakfast to go – we live in a world that needs community – and we're so blessed to be a place people can find it.

So what do you see around you today – and what does Jesus want you to notice in it?

In Christ's Peace,

*Pastor Debbie*

## Scholarship Fund Needs Donors and Recipients

Our church Scholarship Fund has two important needs. The first is always an ongoing need for donations to increase our ability to give out scholarships to students who apply for them. The second is applications from students who need financial assistance to pay their college tuition.

Please send your donations to the Pleasantville Presbyterian Church Scholarship Fund. For an application for a college scholarship, please contact Scott Mosenthal at [scholarship@pvillepresby.org](mailto:scholarship@pvillepresby.org).



## Save the Dates

<i>Jazz Vespers</i>	May 7
<i>Sunday School Planting</i>	May 8
<i>ASP Pancake Breakfast</i>	May 14
<i>Fireman's Parade &amp; BBQ</i>	June 3
<i>Midnight Run</i>	June 4
<i>Jazz Vespers</i>	June 4

## Are You Graduating?



Our graduates will be honored in June. While we know the names of our church's high school graduates, we do not want to overlook graduates of other schools or programs.

If you or someone you know is graduating this spring, please contact the church office at 769-0458 or [jativnan@pvillepresby.org](mailto:jativnan@pvillepresby.org) and let Jo Anna know who we should recognize. Thanks!

## Gardening Time Again



Spring is here and the plants and weeds are growing. The children will soon plant annuals and we will all be enjoying summer flowers soon.

We need your help now and over the summer to help keep our flowerbeds looking great. Please consider giving one week where you will weed and water where needed. Contact Cathy Fellows 741-2734 for more info or sign up in the foyer.

# Church News

## Rummage Week

Were you a part of the transformation? Between Sunday, April 24th and Sunday, May 1st most of the regular midweek activities of the church stopped in order to make space for one of our church's major local mission projects - the Annual Rummage Sale. Many workers totally transformed our normal rooms into display spaces so that people could donate (recycle) their no longer needed gently used things.

Our shoppers benefited from this transformation as they were able to purchase items at a considerably reduced price. It was indeed a dizzy week of fellowship, recycling, stewardship, and mission. And by Sunday, May 1st, the transformation was complete as all was returned to normal, with little evidence remaining of the activity of the preceding week. Look for more details and results in next month's newsletter.

## Women's Brunch Featured Rev. Sarah Henkel

Early on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, nearly three dozen women and young women gathered for Presbyterian Women's Spring Brunch. Delicious quiches, fruit, salads and muffins were prepared by Susana Corona and her able young assistant Alma. The Rev. Sarah Henkel, a Teaching Elder in the Hudson River Presbytery, spoke about her faith journey. Jamming poetry, (April IS Poetry Month), she shared some meaningful poems that inspired her along the way and challenged each of us to begin our own writing. Ladies, don't miss the next brunch!



## Social Justice Interns Will Go to the United Nations!

*A Chance to Join the Group*

On Friday May 13<sup>th</sup>, our Social Justice Intern Program will be sponsoring a trip to visit the PCUSA office at the United Nations. This trip will include a tour of the U.N. as well as speakers and activities that will help us go deeper in our understanding of current events through the eyes of our faith.

If you've always wanted to be a Social Justice Intern - this is your chance! Anyone over 15 is invited to participate. If you are interested in joining us on this adventure - please contact Pastor Debbie to make a reservation!

## Fireman's Parade & Church BBQ



Friday June 3rd  
6:45pm

It is that time of the year again to gather on the church lawn and watch the Fireman's Parade! The parade begins at 7pm and we'll gather before Bedford Road is closed.

Be sure to put this on your calendar. Look for the sign-up sheet in the foyer.

**Invite a friend!**



## Midnight Run

*Saturday, June 4th*

Mission to those currently homeless in NYC

Talk with Dave Smutzler if you are interested in going on the Run.

Items needed for spring are: jeans, sneakers & casual shoes, light jackets, hoodies, knit shirts, t-shirts, backpacks, sleeping bags, caps and belts.



## Become an Investor in ASP

*Appalachia Service Project*

**\$10 a share with great dividends**

Find someone who is going on our summer mission project and buy some stock to support the project! This is a great way to be involved and help the project too.

# Church News

## Sunday School Update

Our elementary Sunday School classes have been having a great time exploring the journey of Jesus through Holy Week, into and beyond the resurrection. Our Middle School students have been grappling with just who Jesus is and our High School students have begun hearing from different members of the congregation about their faith journeys. We are excited to see what the rest of the Sunday School year brings.

## Garden Gourds Will be Transformed

We are going to be growing something a little different this year in the garden. This year our garden will grow ornamental "birdhouse" gourds that our Sunday School students will transform into beautiful creations next year.



## Sunday School Planting

On May 8th, our Sunday School students will share some joy and love with the whole congregation by planting annuals in our gardens. If you want to get down and dirty with our kids, bring some gardening tools and gloves and lend a hand!



## Ecumenical Vacation Bible School

# Deep Sea Discovery

## "God is with me wherever I go."

**August 8-12, 2016**

9am – Noon

St. John's Episcopal Church

For children entering Kindergarten - 8th grade  
Nursery & Pre-K available for children of volunteers

*Adult and high school volunteers are needed to teach, supervise, run outdoor games, prepare daily snacks, set-up, clean-up and more.*

Please talk to Anel Fourie or Bryan Bardin for more information.

Registration forms will be available in the church office or online at

**[pvillevbs.org](http://pvillevbs.org)**

## Animals Visit

### Great Beginning Pre-School

This has been an amazing month down at Great Beginnings. Our Songbirds (4 year olds) spent a couple of weeks learning about dinosaurs, even hatching a dinosaur of their very own!

Both classes had a very special visitor, Rick Lee, who visited from the Nature Awareness School. He brought with him an entire menagerie for our students to experience. We got to meet a beautiful rooster, a cute bunny rabbit, several snakes, hissing cockroaches, and more. Our students showed great bravery, many braver than even some teachers, even wearing a snake necklace!



# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

## Sunday, May 1

*Neighbors Link* - we will be making and delivering sack lunches for Neighbors Link

Middle School: 4:00 - 6:00pm  
High School: 6:00 - 8:00

## Sunday, May 8

*Mother's Day* - No PYC

## Friday, May 13

Social Justice trip to the U.N. - if you are interested in visiting the U.N. with our Interns talk to Bryan

15 years old and up - all day

## Sunday, May 15

*Gardening and more* - we are going to be tending our church's garden and tending our souls!

Middle School: 4:00 - 6:00pm  
High School: 6:00 - 8:00pm

## Sunday, May 22

*Movie Night* - some popcorn, a good movie and great friends!

High School: 6:00 - 8:00pm

## Sunday, May 29

*Memorial Day* - No PYC

## Sunday, June 5

*End of Year Barbecue* - All youth!  
Join us at the church at 4pm



## April Fun — Luau, Circus and More!

April brought lots of fun to PYC, including an all youth Luau featuring blobbyball (our very own wubble-bubble volleyball game), Hawaiian meatballs and even an epic game of sardines. Our High Schoolers also hosted a Circus themed Murder Mystery starring JoAnne the Acrobat.




We also ran two progressive dinners, one each for our Middle and High School programs. If you weren't there you definitely missed out. Our Middle Schoolers (enjoying their second youth group in April) began at the Bronkema's, progressed to Lucio's for a slice, and ended with dessert hosted by the Torosians at the church. Our High Schoolers progressed through Thornwood, visiting the Fourie's, Corona's and Jannetty's. A big thank you to everyone who helped, including Evan, Amethyst, Rich and Jeannine, our wonderful chaperones!

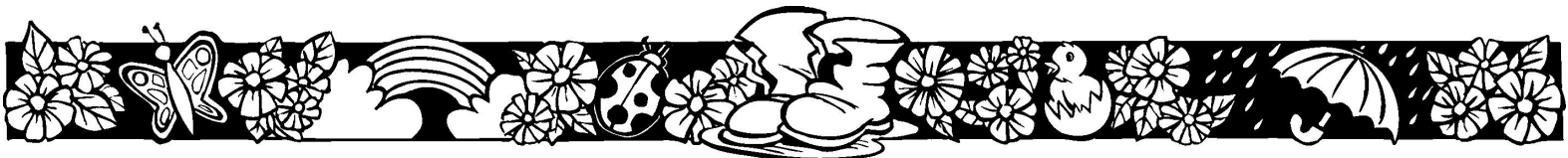
But the fun is not over! Even though our program year is drawing to a close, we still have lots of good stuff up our sleeves!

We will be preparing lunches for Neighbors Link, which is an organization in Mount Kisco that works with recent immigrants to educate, empower and employ.

Finally, June 5th marks the official end of our program year, and we will celebrate with a big, beautiful barbecue.

# MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare 11:15am Mission Mtg. 4pm Jr. High Youth Group 6pm Sr. High Youth Group	<b>2</b> 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 914-426-0886	<b>3</b> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>4</b> 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	<b>7</b> 5pm Jazz Vespers
<b>8</b>  8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 914-426-0886	<b>10</b> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>11</b> 7:30pm Session Meeting	<b>12</b> 9am E&M Mtg.	<b>13</b> 6pm ASP Pancake Bkfst set-up 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	<b>14</b> <i>Pleasantville            Day</i> 7am ASP Pancake Bkfst
<b>15</b> <i>Day of Pentacost</i> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Intergenerational Worship 10am Childcare/Sunday School 11:15am Youth Council Mtg. 4pm Jr. High Youth Group 6pm Sr. High Youth Group	<b>16</b> 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 914-426-0886	<b>17</b> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp	<b>18</b> 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	<b>21</b> 9am ASP Skill building
<b>22</b> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare/Sunday School 6pm Sr. High Youth Group	<b>23</b> 6pm English Lessons Library – call ahead 914-426-0886	<b>24</b> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp	<b>25</b> 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible Fellowship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6pm Spanish Lessons – 104 English Lessons – Campbell Rm.	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare/Sunday School 11:15am Deacon's Meeting	<b>30</b>  MEMORIAL DAY	<b>31</b> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp				



**Pleasantville Presbyterian Church**

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**JAZZ**  
vespers

*Saturday, May 7 at 5:00PM*  
*Saturday, June 4 at 5:00PM*

**at Pleasantville Presbyterian Church**  
[www.pvillepresby.org](http://www.pvillepresby.org) | (914) 769 - 0458