



# The Good News Letter

## Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

SEEKING • CONNECTING • SERVING



### Be a Part of Christmas for Appalachia!



This year our church will be sponsoring 30 Appalachian families who find it hard to buy Christmas gifts for their children and other loved ones. We need everyone's help! Our church's ties to Appalachia get stronger every year. You supported the Appalachia Service Project this past summer, and here is a way to keep the connection going. To become a part of this mission:

1. Look for the table in Fellowship Hall after church in late October. We'll have details about the families and what to buy.

*(cont'd on pg. 3)*

### Fall Food Drive for Children's Village

Can our church donate 200 bags of non-perishable food for the boys of Children's Village (CV), a Dobbs Ferry residential program, and their families? Can we do even better than that? At Thanksgiving, the need is especially great.

We'll kick off this mission project in church on October 8th. Special bags will be distributed, with lists of foods to consider buying. (You don't need to purchase everything on the list.) Bring your filled bags to church. We'll take them to CV on November 12th.

Topping last year's record of 197 bags is our challenge this year for our church. Fill a bag and help feed families!

### International Pot Luck Lunch

Bring a dish from your family heritage or country to serve about 8-10 people.



### Church-wide Apple Picking!



*Sunday, October 1st*

This will take place on October 1st after Coffee Hour. Everyone is invited to join the church family in fun, food and fantastic apples at the Stuart's Fruit Farm. We will carpool to the farm after worship, have fun picking apples, enjoy some fresh apple cider, then head back to the church. If you don't know what to do with all the apples you pick, we will have a basket to accept donations to the church's Loaves and Fishes Hunger Project. Stuart's Fruit Farm, 62 Granite Springs Rd., Granite Springs, NY.

*Sponsored by the Youth Group*

## Pastor Debbie on Reading the Story in Different Ways

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we prepared for teacher training this fall, we decided one of the things that would be good for the group to experience would be some Bible study formats that could be used with a variety of passages as a supplement to our curriculum.

Some folks said they thought these would be fun for everyone to have to try on their own, or in their group Bible studies:



### Bible Study Supplements

1. Invite the participants to imagine themselves in the story:
  - Begin by setting the scene – who is there, where is it happening.
  - Use their senses – to see, hear, smell, taste, and feel what is happening.
  - Close their eyes – see the scene and listen.
  - How did it change the story to see yourself in it?

2. Look at the passage and write down all the verbs – the action words. Look at the list and ask yourself:

- What's happening?
- What is Jesus doing?
- Does this tell me anything about what I can be doing in my life?

3. Modern Art - Draw the story while you hear it read – not so much in images from the story (although that's fine too) but more in lines, shapes, dots – mountains and waves:

- What do you experience when you see what you've drawn?
- Does it help you to hear God's word to respond with art?

There's always more to learn from studying God's word!

In Christ's Love,

*Pastor Debbie*

### Midnight Run



Our congregation participates in the Midnight Run which is a ministry to those who are currently homeless in NYC. The date of the next Run is November 18th, Donations of gently used clothing are always appreciated and may be dropped off in the large white bin in the downstairs hallway. If you would like to go on a Run or have other questions, talk with Dave Smutzler.

### Christmas in Appalachia

*(cont'd from pg. 1)*

2. Select a family you want to sponsor.
3. Shop and mail your gifts. Guidelines suggest around \$25 per person. Any amount is much appreciated!
4. Ship your gift by Thanksgiving.

Want to help with this project? Talk with Dory Baldwin or Kim Lewis.



## Save the Dates

<i>Apple Picking</i>	Oct 1
<i>Adult Ed - Planning Ahead</i>	Oct 1
<i>World Communion</i>	Oct 1
<i>Special Offering Collected</i>	Oct 1
<i>Jazz Vespers</i>	Oct 14
<i>Adult Ed - Planning Ahead</i>	Oct 17
<i>Int'l Pot Luck Lunch</i>	Oct 22
<i>Transitions</i>	Oct 26
<i>Adult Ed - Planning Ahead</i>	Oct 26
<i>Creative Writing</i>	Oct 29



WORLD  
COMMUNION  
SUNDAY

### October 1st

- Celebration during worship
- Peace and Global Witness Special Offering

# Church News

## Looking into the Church's Future

As we look at what we've accomplished the past couple of years, we felt it appropriate to reflect on our journey. Understanding what we've accomplished and obtaining input and feedback from the congregation as we look to the future is important. We will therefore be holding 3 one-hour collaboration sessions where we will explore your thoughts, hopes and dreams for what the Pleasantville Presbyterian Church will be and do 5 years from now. The meetings will be held in the Library and are as follows:

Sunday - Oct 1<sup>st</sup> @ 11:30am  
Tuesday - Oct 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm  
Thursday - Oct 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm

## A Great Beginning

Here at Great Beginnings, our church's Pre-School, 43 children and their parents successfully completed the challenge of separation, and now are joyfully entering our rooms to learn and play thanks to the guidance of our caring staff. The "best kept secret in town" is getting out and we are filled to capacity, with a waiting list! We start tours in late fall and register in January, so if you or your neighbors are interested for September 2018, this is the time to start making inquiries.

## Leaders' Dinner

Deacons and Elders, save the date for the annual Stewardship Leaders' Dinner. It is a time to share fellowship and hear more about our 2017 Stewardship season. It will be held on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:15pm.



# We've Got Something to Share

## STEWARDSHIP 2017

### Stewardship Save The Dates!

November 5 - Stewardship Kickoff and Leader's Dinner  
November 12 - Congregational Stew Lunch  
November 19 - Stewardship Sunday

## Your Generous Heart

"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving."

Amy Carmichael

Generosity is an idea, an attitude, and more. It's a state of being rather than a temporary action. Generosity is often described as overflowing, maybe because it's the response to a feeling of gratitude, and it cannot seem to be contained once it exists.

It can be easy for someone to give something, a one-time event prompted by any number of things. Generosity, however, is a constant and ongoing attitude of the heart; generosity is something that happens when your heart has been opened by love. Our lives are filled with the love of God and we live from a place of generosity.

*Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.*

PROVERBS 19:17

## Creative Writing as a Spiritual Practice Group Forming

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, we will be kicking off the formation of our new Creative Writing as a Spiritual Practice small groups. These groups will be an outreach to our congregation here in Pleasantville, and our online community. They will make it possible for us to connect with people who want to be part of this community, beyond our walls, in a practice that invites and encourages spiritual growth.

One group will be available through Facebook, and the other will be an email based group. We will be meeting at 11:30am on the 29<sup>th</sup> in the Campbell Room to introduce the first session, and to answer any questions you might have about how to connect with folks through these small groups. If you want to know more, please contact Pastor Debbie.

# Church News



Esther Kim meets with the Pre-K class on Kickoff Sunday, September 17th

## What's Happening in Sunday School

Our Sunday School program kicked off on September 17th. We adopted a new Pre-K through 5th grade curriculum from "Spark House: Whirl." It will offer a fresh perspective and inspire our younger children to find joy in learning about God!

For Junior High - High School we will be engaging the youth in interactive curriculums; "Groove" for 6th -8th and "Ministry to Youth and Animate curriculum" for 9th-12th grade. The classes will also utilize videos and games to keep things moving!

## Youth Group BBQ on the Front Lawn

Our Youth Group kick-off barbecue was on September 17th and it was a big success. We had about 20 kids from 5th to 12th grade plus parents and friends of the church enjoying roasted corn, burgers, hot dogs, dessert and fun games. The kids had a chance to introduce themselves to one other. A special thanks to all the youth who attended and their families - it was great to see everyone who made it.

Welcome to Youth Group 5th graders! The Youth Council would like to welcome two new members Stephanie and Victor Parada to youth group. We look forward to getting to know you more.

This event was a success because of our wonderful Youth Council. I would like to thank Pastor Debbie and John Bronkema, Linda and Steve Berg, JoAnne Gullotta, Jeannine and Rich Tocco, Pono and Jane Wong, Amy Williams and Logan Bronkema (who is a Youth Council member). You are all a blessing to this ministry.

If you would like to know more about our Youth Group, which is open to all children 5th-12th grade, please reach out to any of the names above and to Maria Murerwa.

## Teens Serve as Social Justice Interns

The Social Justice Internship Program will kick off with a planning meeting over lunch on October 1st. We will discuss subjects of interest to the youth, their experiences with social justice and some of our plans for the year.

On October 15th, the Interns, as well as both our youth groups, have been invited to St. John's Episcopal Church. This is an interfaith event with the purpose of viewing the documentary; "A Place at the Table;" a film about food scarcity in America. We will discuss the film and come up with ideas for a future interfaith group project.

Going forward the Social Justice Interns plan on meeting on the second Sunday of the month. We also plan on having a fundraiser with fair trade items for sale around the holidays. If you know someone who is interested in participating, please contact Jane Wong or Pastor Debbie.

## Navigating Transitions

Thursday, October 26th  
7:30-9pm

The 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.*

**JAZZ**  
vespers

Saturday  
October 14th  
at 5pm

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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



## October 1<sup>st</sup>

### ***Intergenerational Apple and Pumpkin Picking 1:00 pm***

Meet at the church at 1:00 and we will carpool to Stuart's Orchards. All are welcome – bring a friend!

## October 8<sup>th</sup>

### ***Pizza and Games 5:00-8:00 pm***

Take a break and come hang out with friends.

## October 15<sup>th</sup>

### ***Interfaith Gathering at St. John's Episcopal Church 5:00-8:00 pm***

Join us for an interfaith meeting to view and discuss the documentary; "A Place at the Table." Dinner will be provided.

## October 22<sup>nd</sup>

### ***Christmas in Appalachia 5:00-8:00***

We will meet at the church at 5:00 to shop for our adopted ASP families.

## October 29<sup>th</sup>

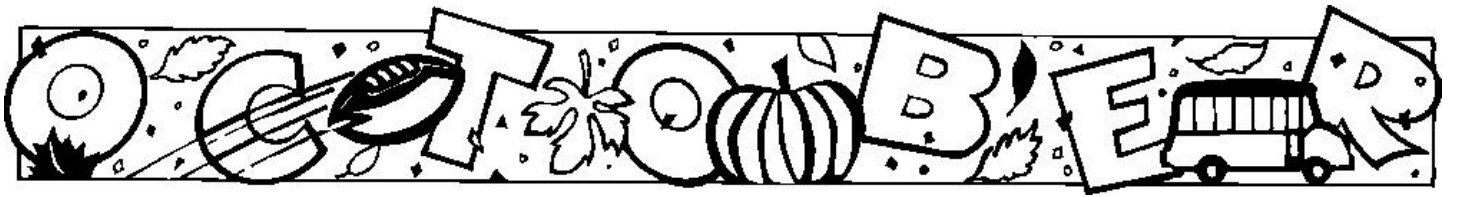
### ***Pumpkin Carving and Halloween Fun 5:00-8:00 pm***

We will be making Jack-O-Lanterns for Great Beginnings Halloween party.



**PYC hours are from 5:00 – 8:00pm**  
**Junior HS 5:00 – 7:00pm**  
**Senior HS 6:00 – 8:00pm**  
**The groups will overlap from 6:00 – 7:00 for dinner together**





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:45am Chancel Choir Practice 10am Intergenerational Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Mission Meeting 11:30am Looking into the Church's future 1pm Intergenerational Apple & Pumpkin Picking	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>4</b> 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible	<b>5</b> 6pm Spanish Lessons - Campbell Rm	<b>6</b> 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 5pm Jr. High Youth Group 6pm Sr. High Youth Group 6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>11</b> 7:30pm Stewardship Mtg	<b>12</b> 6pm Spanish Lessons - Campbell Rm	<b>13</b> 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	<b>14</b> 5pm Jazz Vespers
<b>15</b> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 5-8pm Youth Group - St. John's Episcopal	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Looking into the Church's future	<b>18</b> 7:30pm Session Mtg.	<b>19</b> 6pm Spanish Lessons - Campbell Rm	<b>20</b> 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	<b>21</b> 5pm Pot Luck Lunch Set-up
<b>22</b> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:30am International Pot Luck Lunch 5-8pm Youth Group shopping for Appalachia	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir	<b>25</b> 7:30pm Stewardship Mtg 7:30pm Evening Women's Bible	<b>26</b> 6pm Spanish Lessons - Campbell Rm 7:30pm Looking into the Church's future 7:30pm Transitions Grp.	<b>27</b> 6pm English Lessons - Campbell Rm.	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:45am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10am Childcare in the Nursery 11:15am Deacon's Meeting 11:30am Creative Writing as a Spiritual Practice 5pm Jr. High Youth Group 6pm Sr. High Youth Group	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  10am Hearts & Hands 10am Women's Bible Fwshp 7:30pm Bell Choir				



## Pleasantville Presbyterian Church

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## News from the Hudson River Presbytery

For more information about events or programs, go to [www.hudrivpres.org](http://www.hudrivpres.org) then to "Hudson Happenings"

### Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

"Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events."

PDA is assisting victims of hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria and also the Mexican earthquakes. Members of PDA's National Response Team have arrived in states affected by the hurricanes to provide aid, assess damage and offer spiritual and emotional care for those impacted by the winds and flooding. They are also working closely with partner organizations in Mexico and Puerto Rico to provide assistance and are responding to Cuba and the US Virgin Islands.

To donate money and for background on PDA efforts, information on emergency supply kits and volunteer opportunities go to... [pda.pcusa.org](http://pda.pcusa.org).

### Woman 2 Woman Prison Visitation Training

Woman 2 Woman, Bedford Presbyterian Church's visiting program at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, started more than 4 years ago with one visitor. Since then, more than eighty women have been visiting inmates at Bedford Hills. Thirteen of the inmates who visited have been released. We are holding our next training session on Sunday, October 1st from 2-4pm at Bedford Presbyterian Church. Please note that in order to become a Woman 2 Woman visitor, you must attend a training session.

### Holy Land Travel Study - 2018

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program is offering individuals an opportunity to visit the Holy Land through its Mosaic of Peace Conference in Israel/Palestine, April 29 - May 12, 2018.

### Synod of the Northeast Creation Care Events

October 20-21

Join Synod of the Northeast's Creation Care network for a two-day planning meeting to claim



our moral voices to combat climate change and help the synod be a leader in caring for God's creation! This two-day event will provide opportunities to share what presbyteries are already doing and brainstorm ways to raise awareness and engagement on Climate Change issues.

Plan to attend the special Friday evening event on October 20th with the Rev. Fletcher Harper, Executive Director of GreenFaith on Friday night for Transformation for the Long Haul - Building Local Religious-Environmental Leadership. Q&A to follow.