

The monthly newsletter of  
the Pleasant Valley United  
Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 181  
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063  
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# The Link

## Worship Services

Sundays 9:30 AM

Sunday School Offered Every Sunday!

Church Office Hours

Monday—Wednesday-Friday 1:00 PM  
to 4:00 PM

Address Service Requested

## *Lectionary*

### *Readings*

*Sundays In  
January*

*January 2011*

January 2: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12;  
Matthew 2:1-12

January 9: Isaiah 42:1-9; Acts 10:34-43; Mat-  
thew 3:13-17

January 16: Isaiah 49:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9;  
John 1:29-42

January 23: Isaiah 9:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-  
18; Matthew 4:12-23

January 30: Micah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:18-  
31; Matthew 5:1-12

## *Special Days & Offerings*

*January 2 Epiphany Sunday*

*January 16 Human Relations Day*

*January 9 Baptism of the Lord*

**We're on the Web**

[www.pleasantvalleyumc.com](http://www.pleasantvalleyumc.com)

Men's Bible  
Study Group.



Join us Sunday  
mornings as we discuss Lec-  
tionary passages



M A T T H E W 5 : 3

## Readers

- January 2: Shelley Bailey
- January 9: Becky Bridges
- January 16: Paul Foxx
- January 23: Gail Klein
- January 30: John Baum

FROM THE



PASTOR

I know it is truly difficult to perceive that every day since December 21<sup>st</sup> (the winter solstice), we experience a few extra minutes of daylight. Isn't that good news for those of you who feel light deprived? That includes me. Just think for a moment, that we, in the northern hemisphere, are coming out of the darkness into the light. For thousands of years, humans have been tuned into the movement of the seasons as it relates to daylight and darkness. The duration of daylight hours and of the seasons is caused by the tilting of the earth at an angle of 23 degrees 26 minutes, while the earth is traveling around the Sun at a velocity of 18.5 miles per second or around 65,000 miles per hour. That is faster than my Honda Civic Si! And yet, going by our senses, we are totally unaware that planet Earth is hurling through space at an unimaginable speed. Another mind blower: while we are experiencing the shortest hours of daylight in the northern hemisphere, our brothers and sisters in Bolivia (the southern hemisphere) are experiencing the longest hours of daylight. The Inuit people, who live above the Arctic Circle, experience 6 months of light and then six months of darkness. Knowing all this, doesn't it make you wonder? What are we doing on Earth? Why have humans been so concerned about sunlight and also its absence?

Almost universally, people favor light over dark. The Bible reflects this preference: "...God is light and in him there is no darkness at all" (1John 1:5). The words "light" and "darkness" are employed, metaphorically, to refer to goodness and sin. "Whoever says, 'I am in the light,' while hating a brother or sister, is still in the darkness..." "But whoever hates another believer is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has brought on blindness" (1 John 2:9 & 11). This "blindness" is the cause of suffering and wars and injustice everywhere.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will

have the light of life" (John 8:12). On January 6<sup>th</sup> much of the church around the world celebrates "Epiphany" the in breaking of the light of Christ into the world. This is the hope of those who follow in the "way" of Jesus. The world is still in darkness but much of the world is in the light as well. As people of the "Way" we have the opportunity to be light bearers. The "light of life" drives the darkness away and brings justice and mercy and love to those who are oppressed and in need of all the material and spiritual blessings of life.

As "light bearers" we experience the joy and peace that God intends for the whole world. Friends, may you have a joyous and happy New Year. Therefore: "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you" (Isaiah 60:1).

Pastor Carl

**Prayer Chain Revised:** Our Prayer Chain is one of the important ministries in our church in which everyone can participate. The purpose is to have many voices lifting prayers to the Lord for a particular individual. Initial prayer requests should be directed to Penny Church. She will then start the communication tree to alert our prayer warriors. If you have participated in the Prayer Chain in the past, and would like to be added to the chain, contact Penny at 860-379-0716.

Penny Church 860-379-0716

Dot Lavieri 860-379-3529	Joanne Little 860-738-9942	Church Office 860-379-2157
Marie Phelps 860-489-3286	Peggy Arnold 860-738-9332	
Ruth Schultz 860-496-9214	Mary Liz 860-379-5628	
Mary Lou 860-379-3653	Ann Kramer 860-379-5908	
Dawn Renfrew 860-379-8649	Cathy Baum 860-379-9398	
Shirley Green 860-379-8679		



## December UMW Meeting

The UMW held its annual Christmas Party on December 1 at 6:30PM. It was well attended in spite of the miserable rainy night. Pastor Carl joined us for pizza, salads and lots of delicious desserts. He stayed through most of the festivities and seemed to enjoy everything. We all were happy to have him there.

Ruth was in charge of devotions and did it on the Christmas story. We then had a very short business meeting.

Poochie was in charge of activities. She had us fill small Christmas themed bags with small personal items she brought from home. We could keep them or donate them to Susan B. Anthony to go along with the bath towels. Ruth delivered them.

She had us, as partners, make snowmen from regular and mini size marshmallows, M&M's, and candy canes. We could use as much as we need and were timed. Some were very creative. Everyone's was different.

Poochie also amazed us by turning a small amount of mystery powder that looked like salt or sugar that each of us held in the palms of our hands into snow with just a few drops of water.

We ended with a Yankee gift swap. All who brought presents participated. In a Yankee gift swap each person is assigned a number. #1 selects a wrapped gift and opens it. #2 selects a wrapped gift and then has the choice of swapping the unwrapped gift for the known gift, and so on and so forth through the last person. There were a few swaps, but all the presents were really great and everyone had a wonderful time.

Our next meeting will be January 5, 2011 (Can you believe it?) at 7:00PM in the Fellowship hall. If you've never attended, please give it a try. We'd love to have you.

Have a Blessed and Peace Filled Christmas.

Pat Allen

United Methodist Women

Vice President

We are delighted to welcome a new organist/choir director to our church. Karl Gallmeyer officially joined our church in January but has filled in for Mary Forman in the past. We will greatly miss Mari and her uplifting and joyous music, but wish her well. Thanks for everything, Mari, may the Lord bless you, as you have blessed this church and choir.



**Prayer Shawls:** Prayer Shawls can offer comfort during times of joy or sorrow, and our church has a collection of shawls. If you know of someone who could use the comfort of a Prayer Shawl, contact Pat Allen or a member of the United Methodist Women.



## The Mitten Tree

Thanks to everyone who donated items to the Mitten Tree and to the White Gifts. On Monday, a total of 67 gifts and many batches of bundled magazines were delivered to Laurel Hill Health Care in Winsted. Also 22 mittens or gloves, 19 hats, and 5 scarves were taken to the Winsted branch of the Salvation Army. Thank you for your generosity to help make Christmas brighter and warmer for our community friends.



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Thanks to Todd Register (See Colossians 1:15-17)

12-28-2004

A LITTLE TO THE LEFT AND A LITTLE UP

## *COM Article for January 2011 Link*

The Council on Ministries met on December 14<sup>th</sup> with seven people in attendance. After our prayer for guidance, the group reviewed the plans for the upcoming Christmas events. The Christmas pageant and later on caroling will take place on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. In addition, on that Sunday a new child of God will be baptized into the church family. Items are coming in for the Mitten Tree and for the White Gifts, which will be gathered and distributed on Monday. Discussion continued about how to handle the monies collected from the Christmas Eve Service. It was recommended that the Finance Committee make the determination, with the recommendation from Council on Ministries that a portion of the money collected be given to the Food Bank housed at PVUMC. The Sunday after Christmas will find the worship service at the regular time of 9:30 AM. It was reported that the Advent study is going well, being well attended, and ably led by Joann Little. This study will continue through December 26<sup>th</sup>. Cathy offered the request for more Bible studies as the year continues, noting that meeting after the Sunday worship service seems to work well for everyone. The confirmation class will continue to meet into the New Year in order to cover all the requirements of the class.

Reports from other committees included the UMW's success of their annual Christmas Fair and their ability to make additional donations to various organizations at Christmas. Some of those donations included families in the local area, Warm the Children, and the Children's Youth Bureau in Winsted, and Sharon Health Care. At the annual Christmas party, many towels and 'goodie bags' were donated to Susan B. Anthony, and a fun time was had by all who attended. The Stewardship Committee reported that, to date, a total of 37 pledges have been received, totaling \$60K+ income for the church.

Pastor Carl spoke about conversations he has had with Ann Pearson regarding a potential one-day retreat, off-site, for our church family to envision what direction our church should go in the future and how we plan to get there. The intent is to strengthen our bonds to God and to each other in an effort to make more disciples for Christ.

Lay Leadership will meet tomorrow evening to work on filling positions for the coming year. It will be helpful to review the 'gifts and talents' cards that were completed along with the pledge cards. This will aid the committee in finding the right job for each person's talents and gifts. The committee encourages everyone to take the time to complete these cards in order to provide a wider base of interests.

Pastor Carl also spoke about the District initiative, "Change the World Sunday" in May 2011, in which each church is encouraged to come up with an event or activity that will benefit their community and demonstrate the church's commitment to being a part of the community and its people with their caring support. The hope is that many churches will participate, and collectively we can help change the world, one small corner at a time. Any ideas on events we can plan will be welcome.

A representative of Teen Challenge has contacted Pastor Carl and asked to come speak to our church. This group is one that works with teens in drug and alcohol rehab. Carl will learn more about the organization and work on coordinating an event. Pastor Carl also has information from the American Red Cross in connection with an event they will be hosting in March to honor people who have had a significant impact on their community.

The Council on Ministries encourages your participation in the direction and planning of the specific ministries at PVUMC. Please consider coming to our meetings and lending your support as we move forward in faith. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Parish House.

As we welcome in the New Year, our prayers for Peace on Earth are many, and will be added to all those around the world who are seeking the peace of the Lord.

## Helpers This Month

### Greeters

- 1/2 Lucas Family
- 1/9 Barbara & Steve Bailey
- 1/16 Carvalho Family
- 1/23 Simons Family
- 1/30 Kate & Andrew Fenn Family

### Sanctuary Cleaning

- 1/2 & 1/9 Lee
- 1/16 & 1/23 M. Fenn
- 1/30 & 2/6 LaGrange

### Coffee Hour

- 1/2 **Barbara Bailey**, Crystal DiYulio,  
Shelley Bailey
- 1/9 **Pudge Millahn**, Michelle Dickens,  
Sandy Slemmer
- 1/16 **Janet Lee**, Jennie Peck, Marie  
Phelps
- 1/23 **Sharon Foxx**, Dawn Renfrew,  
Suzanne Gerger-Hurley
- 1/30 **Barbara Bailey**, Gail Klein, Cathy  
Baum

### Counters

- 1/2 Ted Millahn & John Baum
- 1/9 Ann Kramer & Becky  
Bridges
- 1/16 Mary Liz Simons & Steve  
Bailey
- 1/23 Emil Klein & Mary Lou  
Centofanti
- 1/30 Ann Kramer & Gail Klein

### Ushers

- 1/2 Ann Kramer & Shirley Green
- 1/9 Sharon & Paul Foxx
- 1/16 Dawn & Wayne Renfrew
- 1/23 Gene deRoode & Wendy  
Sullenberger
- 1/30 Barbara & Steve Bailey

### Acolyte

- 1/2 Ashley Civelli

## January Birthdays

- January 3 Jay LaGrange**
- January 6 Chip Simons**
- January 12 Leah Sullenberger**
- January 13 Michael Jerabek  
Bud Whitney**
- January 14 Barney Connors**
- January 15 Steve Bailey  
Patricia Barone**
- January 16 Elijah Connors  
Patrice Heuschkel  
Mike Naticha  
Suzie Zygmont**
- January 18 Keegan Zygmont**
- January 20 Jeremy Dyer  
Michael Collins**
- January 22 Poochie Montgomery**
- January 24 Jim Fenn  
Jin Lee**
- January 31 Patrick Heuschkel**

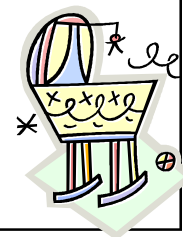


## January Wedding Anniversaries

**January 20 Gail & Emil Klein**

### Nursery Care

- January 2 Crystal DiYulio
- January 9 Barbara Bailey
- January 16 Mindy Henry
- January 23 Michelle Dickens
- January 30 Pat Allen



Please have all articles for the February newsletter to Sharon by January 19, 2011. Send to psfoxx@att.net or leave in Secretary mailbox in library