

The monthly newsletter of the Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church

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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
February*

February 2011

February 6: Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20

February 13: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

February 20: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

February 27: Isaiah 49:8-16a; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34

Special Days & Offerings

February 13 Boy Scout Sunday

February 14 Valentine's Day



Men's Bible
Study Group.



Join us Sunday
mornings as we discuss Lec-
tionary passages



Blessed
are the poor in spirit
for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.

M A T T H E W 5 : 3

Readers

- February 6: Joanne Little
- February 13: Paul Foxx
- February : 20 Cathy Baum
- February : 27 Eric Bailey

FROM THE



PASTOR

It occurs to me that God is not a reasonable God. Let me see, God wants us to forgive people who don't even deserve it. We are supposed to love and pray for people that we can't stand or who might have it out for us. When slapped on the one cheek, we are supposed to offer the other. Oh, when we are asked to carry a burden for a mile in distance, we are expected by our God to offer a second mile?

When Jesus called his disciples he couldn't wait for them to settle domestic affairs first: "let the dead bury their own dead" (Mt. 8:22). Such an impatient Lord. Jesus takes all the fun out of gossiping about the "speck" in my brother's eye, while telling me that I have much more to be concerned with in my own way of seeing things - or not seeing things, that is, the "log" in our own eye.

Though not demanded, giving a tithe to our local church as a starting point for becoming a disciple, is unreasonable. However, the tithing discipline has a remarkable tendency to cure our relationship with money; it transforms our "mad money into glad money."

It is not reasonable, especially during our economic down turn to go to Bolivia when we have so much to be concerned with in our own back yard. It is not reasonable to risk hard earned money when you really don't know if you'll have a job in the future. It is not reasonable to go to a country that has a left leaning president who told our ambassador to leave. U.S. relations with Bolivia is not that warm. And yet God calls us to go, seek out our neighbor and get busy building the body of Christ, out there in the world, in Bolivia. Consider a mission to our brothers and sisters as a ministry of reconciliation.

Western nations have had a poor track record with indigenous peoples, especially in our own country, including the rest of the Americas.

1

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away, see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself

through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:17-20).

As followers of Jesus, we can offer a gesture of good will, as ambassadors for Christ, coming from the United States. However unnoticed or small that gesture is, it is what we can do for the sake of the God's dream for this world. It is what we can do to enhance the possibility of peace and abundance for all.

Our mission in Cochabamba Bolivia is named "Encounter with Christ." In a very real sense, our brothers and sisters encounter Christ in us as we encounter Christ in them. Many of our Volunteers In Mission have testified that they have been "forever changed" from this experience.

The current mission is to continue the building of Luz de Vida (Light of Life) church in Cochabamba, and to continue providing a Vacation Bible School in support for the day care centers belonging to the five Methodist churches of Cochabamba

The total cost for this mission adventure is \$2,400 which includes all expenses. Our District Superintendent has offered a \$500 scholarship for those who plan to go to any of our Conference sponsored missions, and the Bolivia mission fund can add up to another \$500 to anyone committed to joining the 2011 mission team. The dates are June 23 to July 9. Please contact pastor Carl for more information. 860-596-4159 or cfranson417@comcast.net.

Pastor Carl Away: Pastor Carl will be out of the office starting Wednesday, February 2nd and will return Wednesday, February 9th. In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Rev. Barbara Schaffer at 860-489-8084 or Rev. George Smith at 860-738-8324.



January 2011 UMW News

The UMW met on January 5th, in the Parish House to help save on heat. There were 10 ladies attending.

Margo led us in Devotions and taught us about the Armor of God. The reference comes from Ephesians 6;10—“Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil.” The Armor of God consists of the Belt of the Truth, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Shoes of Readiness and Peace, the Shield of Faith, the Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit. She gave all of us a bookmark with the prayers that go with each part.

Westport UMC will be hosting this years Winter Gathering. If you would like more information about it, speak to Margo.

We set the date for our annual Christmas Fair for November 5th, to coincide with Immaculate Conception’s Fair. It has worked out really well the past two years for both churches to do this. It was suggested that different individuals plan and lead a craft or several craft for a month. That way no one person has the burden of all the planning.

On March 2nd, Eileen Rydel , from the Foothills VNA will do a presentation on Hospice. Please plan on coming and bringing a friend as this should be a very interesting and informative program.

Margo and Kristin are still working on a program about bullying. If you know of anyone who has expertise on this subject please speak to one of them. It is a subject we all should be concerned about.

We discussed a memorial gift for Ellie Ahlberg as she was our president for many years. Margo is also going to investigate 5 Star Unit Criteria which Ellie was

was very interested in. We are holding a Pocketbook Auction for our February meeting. We did this a few years ago and it was a lot of fun. Plan on coming and bringing an old pocketbook no longer desired by you with a little surprise tucked inside. The profits will go to the Heifer Project in memory of Ellie. Baby Kit items will also be collected at this meeting.

We are also planning to have our annual Mother’s Day tea again. Kristin agreed to be the chairperson and Poochie is planning a Mad Hatter Theme. If you know Poochie. it should be a fun time.

Joann and Jennie provided delicious refreshments and then we set our budget for 2011.

Our next meeting will be February 2nd. Please plan on coming and bringing an old pocketbook and a friend. The more, the merrier.

God Bless You,

Pat Allen, Vice President UMW

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 in the past. Welcome, Karl.



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11-27-2001
YOU DEVILS SOMETIMES MANAGE TO SCORE A POINT OR TWO AGAINST US ANGELS, BUT YOU NEVER WIN ... HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED THE FACT THAT YOU MAY HAVE A BAD COACH?

COM Article for February 2011 Link

Council on Ministries met on January 11th to review recent events at church and to work on future plans as we move forward in the year. Pastor Carl would like to initiate a one-day, retreat-type meeting for all church members to come together and work on ideas that will help plan the future direction of our church, sort of “where we go from here” conversations. He has spoken with another area pastor about working with the group so that Pastor Carl can be an attendee rather than the leader. He hopes to have some additional information and set a date for this event soon. It will be important to have good attendance at this meeting.

It was decided that representatives from Teen Challenge, an organization that works with teens who have drug and alcohol addiction problems, will come and speak with the congregation during the worship service on March 20th. A special collection will be taken during the worship that will be presented to Teen Challenge to aid in continuing their ministry to youth.

Pastor Carl shared some information and dates about various events that are being offered by the Conference. Of particular interest is a Healing Service, with our DS, Ken Kieffer as the speaker, planned for Sunday, April 10th from 4-5 PM in North Canton. It is hoped that a good size group from PVUMC will be able to attend this important service. He also spoke about other opportunities to attend training sessions provided by the District and the Conference.

As part of the District initiative to *Re-Think Church*, Pastor Carl asked for ideas and suggestions for a project that will benefit the entire community of Pleasant Valley. It was suggested that discussion regarding participation in this kind of event be held at an Admin Board meeting as its success will depend on the cooperation of the whole congregation.

Upcoming dates for Souper Bowl of Caring (February 6th), Boy Scout Sunday (February 13th), and Girl Scout Sunday (March 13th) were also mentioned.

The UMW shared that at their meeting in January, their 2011 budget was discussed and passed, the date for the Christmas Fair was set as November 5th, and the date for the Mother’s Day Tea will be set once dates are established for the Bean Hole Bean Suppers. The program at the February meeting will be a Pocketbook Auction, with all money raised going to the Heifer Project in honor of Ellie Ahlberg.

John and Cathy volunteered to call for a meeting of all Bean Hole Supper committee heads to at least set the dates for the year, and discuss any other concerns that will need to be addressed immediately. It was acknowledged that Lay Leadership still is working on finding someone to be chairperson(s) of the Bean Hole Bean Suppers.

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, February 8th at 7:00 PM in the Parish House.

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.



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.



Helpers This Month

Greeters

- 2/6 Penny Church & Family
2/13 Sharon & Paul Foxx
2/20 Jennie & Nick Peck
2/27 The Renfrew Family

Sanctuary Cleaning

- 2/6 LaGrange
2/13 Foxx
2/20 Foxx
2/27 Peck

Coffee Hour

- 2/6 **Bette Vasko**, Crystal DiYulio , Karen Carvalho
2/13 **Suzie Zygmont**, Mary Forman, Karen Civelli
2/20 **Penny Church**, Mindy Church, Nicholas Church
2/27 **Pat Allen**, Ann Kramer, Beth Lambert

Counters

- 2/6 John Baum & Ted Millahn
2/13 Mary Lou Centofanti & Steve Bailey
2/20 Mary Liz Simons & Emil Klein
2/27 Gail Klein & Becky Bridges

Ushers

- 2/6 Bill & Becky Bridges
2/13 Ann Kramer & Shirley Green
2/20 Sharon & Paul Foxx
2/27 Dawn & Wayne Renfrew

Acolyte

- 2/6 Sarah Lucas
2/13 Tom Fenn
2/20 Mackenzie Fenn
2/27 Victoria deRoode

February Birthdays

February 5 Evan Bailey

February 10 Wendy Sullenberger

**February 11 Jennie Rogers
Joe Ott**

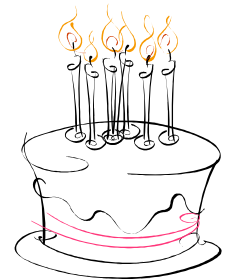
**February 15 Shirley Whitney
Carl Winstead**

February 16 Lyndsey Fenner

February 20 Bill Collins

February 24 Kathy Beck

February 28 Dot Lavieri



February Wedding Anniversaries

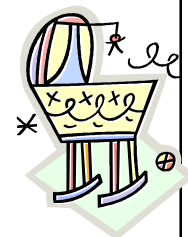
February 14 Paul & Sharon Foxx

February 26 Pam & Gene Brunell



Nursery Care

- February 6 Sharon Foxx
February 13 Peggy Arnold
February 20 Mindy Henry
February 27 Crystal DiYulio



Please have all articles for the February newsletter to Sharon by February 15, 2011. Send to psfoxx@att.net or leave in Secretary mailbox in library