

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

Sundays In

March 2011

March 6: Exodus 24:12-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21;
Matthew 4:1-11

March 13: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Romans
5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

March 20: Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-
17; John 3:1-17

March 27: Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11; John
4:5-42

Special Days & Offerings

Shrove Tuesday Supper: 6 pm March 8th
Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm March 9th
Sundays in Lent—March 1, 20, 27
Teen Challenge March 27th

Teen Challenge: Join us on Sunday, March 27th to hear testimony from people in recovery. This is a ministry to those who are addicted to drugs and alcohol. It is a Long Term commitment of 1 to 2 years with an excellent recovery record. Clients are encouraged to enter into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Teen challenge is only supported by donations. A free-will offering will be received to support this vital ministry.

Men's Bible Study Group.
Join us Sunday mornings as we discuss
Lectionary passages



Readers

- March 6: John Baum
- March 13: Ann Kramer
- March : 20 Jacque Williams
- March : 27 Gail Klein



I do not know about you, but I have been glued to my TV news, radio and internet programs concerning the massive uprising of people in the regions of Northern Africa and the Middle East. There are more than a dozen countries experiencing an outpouring of rage coming from decades of economic and social unrest: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Libya, Sudan, Yemen, Djibouti, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Syria, Morocco and Tunisia. According to CNN news, the “roots of unrest,” are unemployment, lack of housing, discrimination, corruption, rising prices of food and political repression.

It all started two months ago in Tunisia when an unemployed college graduate set himself “ablaze” after police confiscated his fruit cart, cutting off his source of income. His desperate act touched the hearts of many in his country igniting a passion for liberation and profound reform. On January 14, following weeks of demonstrations, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali fled the country. I understand that “Twitter” and “Facebook” played a significant role in aiding the planning and implementation of the protests. Yeah....for social networking!

It is as though the seeds of protest have been germinating and are now springing forth in abundance. “For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations” (Isaiah 61:11).

My theological understanding is that God is the God of all nations. Addressing the Athenians who worshiped many gods, Paul said: “From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him...” (Acts 17:26-27). Also, that it is the responsibility of a nation’s leader to make sure that basic human needs and rights are made available to all. With this in mind, I looked up “nation” (nations) in Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible. I was shocked to find over 380 references to “nation (s)” in the bible. In the first testament (OT), the prophets consistently called to account, not only Israel, God’s chosen, but all the nations of the known world.

The common theme of God’s judgment against the kings and rulers is their unjust treatment of the poor, the needy, the sick and disposed. According to the prophet Ezekiel, the sin of Sodom was the sin of those

who were in positions of power and wealth while ignoring the poor: “This was the guilt of Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. They were haughty and did abominable things before me; therefore I removed them when I saw it” (Ezekiel 16:49-50).

Jesus spoke of his future return as the Risen Lord who will judge between those who succeed in performing acts of mercy and generosity and those who do not: “All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats...” (Matthew 25:32) Those who feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit in prison, welcome the stranger, give water to the thirsty, treat the injured and sick will be invited to inherit the kingdom of heaven; the others....well they will not be invited into the kingdom. Jesus completely identifies with the down trodden of this world: “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40).

Today, dictators, kings, presidents and rulers of these nations are being called to account by their own people flooding the streets and public squares. More importantly they stand accountable to the Lord of all nations, Jesus, the Christ. Jesus sees with eyes of justice and even compassion. Remember, Jesus on the cross, dying for the sins of the world said, “Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34). These last words apply to all of us. They apply to the throngs in the public squares who are aching for new opportunity and a new chance to live a life that God intends. They even apply to Moammar Gadhafi!

Pray for the end of violence in Libya, for all those who have been killed and wounded and for their families, especially the children. For “...you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy” (1 Peter 2:9-10). Pastor Carl

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: The men of the church will host the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 6 PM March 8th. The menu will include pancakes, sausages and real maple syrup. It’s also rumored that real homemade potato pancakes will also be available. Come join us.





February UMW News

The UMW met on Wednesday, February 9th, for our monthly meeting. It had been postponed for a week due to another winter storm. 15 women and two young girls were in attendance.

Joanne Little led the Devotion and told everyone about the attributes of God. Some of the many attributes are: all knowing and wise, infinite, rules all creation, all powerful, in control, so holy, exists eternally, merciful, self-sufficient (never changes), and His primary concern being the well being of all of us. She passed out to each person present a Letter from God which she read.

Next Poochie led everyone in a Pocket-book Auction. It had been decided that the proceeds would be donated to the Heifer Project International in memory of Ellie Ahlberg, as this was a favorite charity of hers. Many, many pocketbooks were donated and most all of them had some kind of goodie or treasure inside. \$133 was raised and \$17 left over from our Christmas pizza party was added to it to make a grand total of \$150. Marie is going to research different areas of the Heifer Project to see where we might like to direct the donation. Everyone involved in the Auction had a great time, even the two little girls who came with their moms.

After the Auction, refreshments were served by Kathy Baum and Barbara Bailey.

A business meeting was held next with several items being tabled until the next meeting as it was already quite late.

Keep April 30th free for our annual Mother- Daughter Tea and March 2nd, for our next meeting. A VNA nurse is coming to speak to us about Hospice care. It is a subject that all people should be interested in. It is a wonderful program that is helpful to all involved. Please try to come and bring a friend. Remember, UMW is open to all women in the church and we would love to have you join us.

May the peace of God be with you all,
Pat Allen UMW Vice-President

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is an on-going connection between our church family and friends that allows us to remind those in need about the love of God and that they are still in the Lord's loving care. If you would like to participate in this ministry but can't knit or crochet, or don't have the time to make a shawl, a monetary donations to help pay for supplies and postage when we mail the shawls would always be welcome. Please speak with Margo Fenn.



Beanhole Bean Suppers: The dates for the 2011 Beanhole Bean Suppers have been set. Save the dates:

May 21st
September 24th
October 29th



Gifts of Time and Talents: When you join The Methodist Church you promise to uphold the church by your prayers, your presence, your **gifts**, and your service. If you have a specific gift or talent which you would like to offer in service to the church please complete one of the blue "gifts of time and talents" cards which can be found in the narthex and drop it in the offering plate.

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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Exodus 32)

03-01-2010

AARON ATTEMPTS TO HIDE THE CALF

Helpers This Month

Greeters

March 6 Ruth Schultz & Family
13 Vasko Family
20 Jacque Williams
27 Zygmont Family

Sanctuary Cleaning

March 6 Peck
13 Kramer
20 Kramer
27 Steve Bailey

Coffee Hour

March 6 Janet Lee, Jennie Peck,
Marie Phelps
13 Wendy Sullenberger, Shellie
Ritchie, Kim Connors
20 Karen Carvalho, Shirley Green,
Ann Naticha
27 Suzie Zygmont, Mary Forman,
Beth Lambert

Counters

March 6 Mary Lou Centofanti & Steve
Bailey
13 John Baum & Ann Kramer
20 Mary Liz Simons & Ted Millahn
27 Steve Bailey & Emil Klein

Ushers

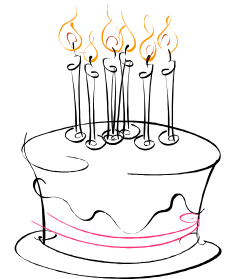
March 6 Gene deRoode & Wendy Sullen
berger
13 Barbara & Steve Bailey
20 Bill & Becky Bridges
27 Ann Kramer & Shirley Green

Acolyte

March 6 Nathan Benham
13 Samantha Benham
20 Matthew Civelli
27 Ashley Civelli

March Birthdays

March 3 Nora Hewitt
4 Daniel Abbott
6 Bette Vasko
11 Debbie Sherwin
Shellie Ritchie
13 Mitchell Renfrew
16 Bruce Phelps
18 Christine Phelps
20 Thomas McIlroy
21 Bill Bridges
22 Jared Sullenberger
24 Mark Granquist
25 Jonah Hewitt
27 Ross Fenner
27 Joel Phelps
29 Marissa Vasko
30 Bill Hague
31 Mackenzie Fenn

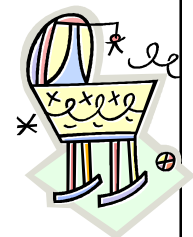


March Wedding Anniversaries

March 14 Poochie & Terry Montgomery
15 Joanne & Tony Scirpo
30 Linda & Carl Winstead

Nursery Care

March 6 Barbara Bailey
13 Pippi Dickens
20 Mindy Henry
27 Pat Allen



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