

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  
April*

*April 2011*

April 3: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14;  
John 9:1-41

April 10: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11; John  
11:1-45

April 17: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; Mat-  
thew 21:1-11

April 24: Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John  
20:1-18

## *Special Days & Offerings*

*April 17: Palm Sunday*

*April 17 to April 23—Holy Week*

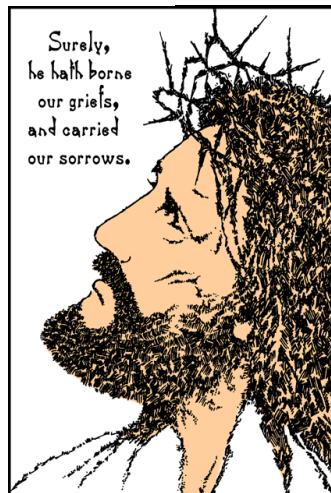
*April 24: Sunrise Service—Beach Rock Rd*

*April 24: Easter Sunday*

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



**Collection Request:** This winter has found us with a few extra expenses, which, though needed, are straining our budget. The choir robes were cleaned after long use, the office copier required replacement, and there has been extra snow plowing (has anyone noticed the extra snow?). If possible, we are asking for extra consideration in your giving to help cover these expenses.



## Readers

- April 3: Cathy Baum
- April 10: Nick Peck
- April 17: Joanne Little
- April 24: Emil Klein

FROM THE



PASTOR

Since my last letter, there has been a dramatic turn of events in the world. In Japan, the combined effects of the earthquake followed by the devastating tsunami has left thousands upon thousands of people homeless, hungry, cold, grieving for lost mothers, fathers, sons, daughters and neighbors. Where are the missing? It seems that the lucky ones are those who have retrieved the bodies of loved ones that were swept away by the incredible force of the tsunami. They are the lucky ones, because there is the dreadful but final realization that the missing are found and can now be laid to rest in the earth and in the hearts and minds of those left behind. My heart breaks for those left behind who are still searching through the rubble for their family members. I remember seeing one father, on CNN, who lived in another region when calamity struck. He traveled to the community where his family lived. He went looking and searching and finally finding one of his children, dead. He said, "I won't leave until I find the rest of my family." He will not rest until he finds them.

Then there is the threat posed by the nuclear fallout coming from the reactors of the Fukushima plant. I can't imagine what the workers at the plant are experiencing as they are faced with the certainty of their own death by the massive radioactive exposure to their bodies. Day after day, the reactor technicians and firemen are faced with the nonstop drudgery of crudely attempting to cool down the out of control nuclear fuel with fire hoses. "It's like a squirt gun, using a squirt gun to put out a raging forest fire," said Michio Kaku, one of America's top physicists. How much can they take? How much can their family members take? At this point no one knows.

To make matters worse, there is the incredible outcome of what began as a protest for human rights in Libya. Moammar Gadhafi reacted by staging an all out attack against his own people. Even though I am 99% against war, I was anxiously awaiting to see if and when the United States and its allies would attack and establish the "No-Fly zone." It is very uncertain where this will lead. There is so much at stake. And yet, could the world stand by and watch the slaughter and eventual blood bath?

What are we to make of these tragic events? I keep thinking of the song, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." This song and so many other hymns like it seem like so much fluff in the face of what's happening in the world right now. I have asserted that Jesus, the son of God rules over all, and leaders of nations are accountable to him. He is the Word of God from the beginning. Nothing was created without him (John 1:1-4). If that is so - and I believe with all of my heart that it is.....then how do we make sense of all this? "For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death" (1 Corinthians 15:25-26). Deep within me is the longing for the world to be healed. I dwell on John's vision in the book of Revelation. The new Jerusalem has come to earth and the river of the water of life is flowing through the city: "On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each

month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. I look for the day when the Risen Lord, Jesus will fulfill his promise to return and set the record straight on how to live peaceably with one another. This is where I rest my hope, but what do we do in the meantime? Is there something for the people of faith to do that would make a difference?

We can pray for the world that God loves, all 6.9 billion people and the earth itself and all of the fragile eco systems without which we would die. We can pray for and support our missionaries in Japan, and all other locations, that they will embody Christ as they do their work of love. We can pray for all of our service men and women and for their families. Pray for our leaders and those of other nations, that they will seek God's guidance in their decision making.

And while we are on our knees, we can begin a return to the Garden where it all began. If we return to the notion that the earth is God's garden, "...then there is nothing more appropriate and important than for us to learn to garden like God does. Gardening matters because that is how God continuously creates, cares for, and sustains the world... How would our political, social, and economic worlds have to change if people came to see the planet Earth as an immense and diverse garden, the focal point of God's abiding attention, devotion, and love?" (Norman Wirzba: Sojourners magazine, April)

I believe that God is searching for the "missing" like that father in Japan. In this case, the "missing" are those who buried in the rubble of war and injustice and a selfish concern for personal wants and perceived needs. God is searching for those who will join Him in tending the garden by nurturing peace, health, reconciliation and love. Pastor Carl

## SPRING FAIR

Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church is having their spring Mother's Market, tag sale, and vendor fair on **Saturday May 14th, 2011**, from 9am-2pm. This is a church fund raiser and your support is welcome. We will have a Tag Sale room so keep this in mind when you do your spring cleaning. A Mother's Market is an opportunity for families to sell and/or buy slightly used items. Examples of items would be children's clothes, toys, books, furniture (up to code), maternity clothes and/or any other useful baby items. An inside 8 foot table/spot is \$20 and an outside spot with person providing table /shelter is \$25. Space is limited so please take this into consideration when you bring your items. All tables/spaces will be on a first come, first serve basis. We will be having a bake sale and will serve lunch that day. Any questions please contact Mindy Henry at 860-738-7737 or email mhenry7737@gmail.com. You can also contact Pat Allen at 860-379-2403 or email her at leigh-allen@att.net.



## United Methodist Women

The UMW met on Wednesday, March 2. We started with a program on Hospice Care. Eileen Ridell who is a VNA nurse spoke to us about what Hospice care is and the many parts of its program. Hospice involves ministering to the physical, emotional, spiritual, family and financial aspects of each patient in the program. There is a team approach to giving care and coordinating all facets of that care. The Doctor, Nurses, Aides and Spiritual Advisor meet every two weeks to assess and /or change the patient's plan of care if needed. Their goal is to keep the patient as comfortable as possible by providing all prescriptions and other medical equipment needed to help in that effort and to have them die with dignity. After the patient's death, the VNA follows each family for a year to lend assistance with any problems that might arise.

We had a time to ask questions. Some of them included queries regarding liability, education of care givers, types of care given by volunteers in the program, and how to deal with problems which might arise during the time of care. Many of us are now thinking about taking a class to be a volunteer. Eileen Ridell was both informative and encouraging. It was a wonderful program.

Next we enjoyed delicious St. Patrick's desserts and punch provided by Poochie Montgomery and Marie Phelps.

Poochie led us in a devotion that included a fun quiz regarding Ireland. She also talked about Irish Friendship rings which have 2 hands holding a heart, indicating love, and told us that the more we all meet together, the closer we become through the love of Jesus Christ. She ended with an Irish Blessing for us all.

We then had our usual business meeting where we talked about the Mother-Daughter Tea which will be held on April 30, 2011. Kristen Stoeke and Poochie are co-chairing the event with several other members helping. Poochie is planning a Mad Hatter Tea Party.

The donation to Heifer International as a memorial gift in memory of Ellie Ahlberg is going to their W. I.L.D. group that helps women and children within the Heifer International organization.

Our next meeting will be on April 6, 2011 at 7:00 PM We will be putting our Church World Service Kits together which include baby kits, school kits and health kits.

Refreshments will be served by Laurie Fenner and Pat Allen. Laurie also has Devotions and Joann Little has the Mission Moment. Please plan on attending as many hands make light work.

Yours in Christ,

Pat Allen, Vice-President UMW

**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. Mark your calendars!:

May 21st

September 24th

October 29th



## Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church Presents

**Spring Jam**

**A Coffeehouse style musical event!**

**featuring**

*The Rivertones*

*Travellin' Trout*

*Collette Hurst Quintet*

*C-Side Alley*

*The No Stress Band*

**Saturday, April 9**

**6:45 p.m.**

Suggested donation: \$10 adults \* kids 10 and under \$5

Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church  
Rt. 181 \* Pleasant Valley, CT  
Tickets sold at the door the night of the show

**Vacation Bible School:** Vacation Bible School will be the week of July 18th to July 22nd from 5:45 to 8:15 pm. The theme this year is "Shake It Up Café" where the children carry out God's recipe. To sign your child up or to see how you can help at this fun event, please contact Mindy Henry at 860-738-7737.

*COM Article for April 2011 Link*

Council on Ministries met on March 8<sup>th</sup> to review recent events at church and to work on future plans for our spring and summer months. Plans are still in the early stages of organizing a one-day retreat for goal setting, envisioning our future, and finding opportunities to generate goals around the plan to return PVUMC to having a full-time minister. It is hoped that a meeting date can be set for early in April, but Carl is still working on finding a moderator to work with our group. Everyone in the church is invited and encouraged to attend as we set our sights on the future.

The group Teen Challenge will come to visit our church on March 27<sup>th</sup> to share their journey toward recovery from alcohol and drug abuse. This is an important topic in today's society and everyone is urged to come to church and be a part of this experience. A special offering will be taken to help support this group's ministry.

A vision for a community garden on the grounds of the church was discussed and then referred to Administrative Board for further discussion. It sounds like an interesting project and we are looking forward to hearing more about it.

Another new initiative for our church will be the Parish Nurses. Joann Little shared her vision for establishing a group of nurses from our church who will be available to our congregation for support and assistance as needed. This idea came from a workshop she attended at the Discovery Day, sponsored by our United Methodist District. She learned how this ministry could impact the lives of the people with whom they interact and explained how they intend to begin small and, hopefully in the future, reach out to the other churches in the area to include them as well. It will be exciting to learn about this program as it moves forward.

Pastor Carl spoke about the plans for a Night of Missions on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. On that evening he and Diann, along with Dan Abbott, will share pictures and experiences from their mission trip to Bolivia last summer. Also Dan will speak about his future plans to go to Africa in the summer. Here's a wonderful chance to hear about the work these folks have done to further the kingdom of God.

Dates have been set for Vacation Bible School for this year and they are July 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. More information will be coming along as the time gets closer.

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, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Parish House.

**Healing Services with D.S. Kieffer:** As our Book of Worship reminds us, Scripture strongly affirms ministries of spiritual healing, which in recent years have received renewed emphasis throughout Christ's holy Church. Spiritual healing is God's work of offering people balance, harmony and wholeness of body, mind, spirit, and relationships through confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Through scripture, prayer, music and reflection, our District Superintendent Ken Kieffer will create an atmosphere of healing so that **all kinds of healing** happens. Please join our D.S. Ken Kieffer at North Canton United Methodist Church. If you've never heard our D.S. preach before, you're in for a treat, if you have, you know it will be inspiring. All are welcome. The date is Sunday, April 10th from 4–5

**We're on the Web**

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

## Helpers This Month

### Greeters

- April 3 Marie & Bruce Phelps  
10 Tom Bailey Family  
17 Becky & Bill Bridges  
24 The Card Family

### Sanctuary Cleaning

- April 3 Steve Bailey  
10 LaGrange  
17 Allen  
24 Klein

### Coffee Hour

- April 3 **Pat Allen**, Mary Liz Simons, Dot Lavieri  
10 **Margo Fenn**, Kate Fenn, Pippi Dickens  
17 **Janet LaGrange**, Peggy Arnold, Suzanne Gerber-Hurley  
24 **Easter Sunday-Hosted By Volunteers**

### Counters

- April 3 Becky Bridges & Ann Kramer  
10 John Baum & Gail Klein  
17 Emil Klein & Steve Bailey  
24 Mary Liz Simons & Ted Mil-

lahn

### Ushers

- April 3 Sharon & Paul Foxx  
10 Dawn & Wayne Renfrew  
17 Gene deRoode & Wendy Sullenburger  
24 Barbara & Steve Bailey

### Acolyte

- April 3 Thomas Henry  
10 Abby Henry  
17 Austin Stoeke

**Easter Flowers:** We're selling Easter Flowers again this year. Place your orders for Lilies (\$10), or Tulips, Hyacinths or Daffodils (\$8) with Pat Allen by Sunday, April 10th. We'll use them to adorn the Sanctuary through Easter, then you can take them home to plant.

April 5 Emil Klein

## April Birthdays

- 6 Jennifer Green  
8 Alison O'Brien  
11 Becky Bridges  
13 **Alix Bullard**  
**Jessica Granquist**  
18 **Kate Fenn**  
**George Henry**  
21 **Justin Lucas**  
22 **Cooper O'Connor**  
23 **Eric Vasko**  
24 **Christine Carvalho**  
26 **Robert Pelletier**  
29 **Paul Fenner**  
**Joanne Scirpo**

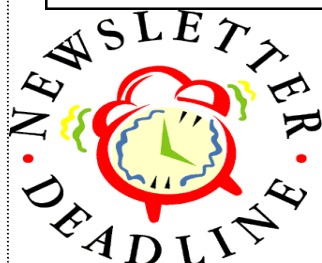
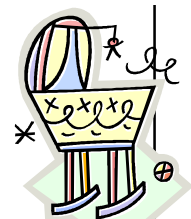


## April Wedding Anniversaries

- April 11 **Ann & Mike Natcha**  
14 **Janet & Jay LaGrange**

### Nursery Care

- April 3 Pat Allen  
10 Peggy Arnold  
17 Crystal DiYulio  
24 Barbara Bailey



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