

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 May

May 2011

May 1: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

May 8: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

May 15: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

May 22: Acts 7:55-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 29: Acts 17:22-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Special Days & Offerings

- May 8th Native American Ministries Sunday*
- May 8th Mother's Day*
- May 14th Mother's Market/Tag Sale/Bake Sale*
- May 21st Beanhole Bean Supper*

New Contact List: Our thanks to Margo Fenn for making up a new "Contact List" with church members telephone & mailing information. Copies are available on the Bessie Table in the Narthex.

Collection Request: This winter has found us with a 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. If possible, we are asking for extra consideration in your giving to help cover these expenses.



Readers

- May 1: Paul Foxx
- May 8: Ann Kramer
- May 15: Shelley Bailey
- May 22: Youth
- May 29: Jacque Williams

FROM THE



PASTOR

How do we keep from hating people we vehemently disagree with and don't understand? It's like "those people" are from another planet. There seems to be so much division in our world, society and communities. It seems that everything we deem important to us leads to some kind of controversy. On TV, radio, news publications, and the internet, I listen to and read the opinions of the "experts" on the economy, environment, war and peace, global warming, immigration, sexuality, education, etc., and last but not least, religion. The easiest thing for me is to seek out the opinions that I agree with. I add them to my own quiver of so called knowledge and fact. I admit that it is much harder for me to listen and consider the opinions of those I disagree with. When I try to do that, I can feel the physiology in my body react in uncomfortable ways. When I feel this way I am totally living in and trusting in the "world" and its systems. These are important matters that do intersect with our faith in profound ways, but I caution myself not to put the cart before the horse.

I can remember meeting with a group of clergy representing a broad spectrum of Christianity. We were pastors who loved Jesus and were committed to do almost anything to spread his love in our churches and communities. We agreed with one another that we would not discuss or mention "hot button" issues at our gatherings. Our focus would be Jesus as the Resurrected Lord and Savior of our lives. We knew that if we were to bring up "hot button" issues we would fall apart and commit a disservice to the one we loved. We knew that we were unable to agree on how to interpret scripture, even. This is not to say that we should not have discussed uncomfortable issues. In the right setting and circumstances that is exactly what we should have done. The mission we all agreed on was to spread God's love. That we could trust.

I think that when we want others to change their view to agree with our view, we are on the wrong track. This is like believing that if the people of the world saw things as I do, everything would be alright. Everyone wants to live in a world where life goes on in relative peace. This song lyric seems to have part of the answer: "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me." So how do we have that peace within, no matter what? As Jesus was preparing his disciples for his departure he said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (John 14:27). Jesus wants us to live without fear and to have peace in our hearts.

The peace that the world gives will never lead to peace, because the peace that the world gives is not lasting; it is inauthentic and false. For example, "If only I had enough money I would be at peace." Or, if only we were all "liberal" or all "conservative" everything would be ok. It's

not that we don't need money or political agreement, but that whimsical way of imagining peace does not address the all important peace within. It remains external, in the world. In his book, The Problem of Pain (1962) C.S. Lewis explains: "I am not, of course, discussing whether very drastic changes in our social system are, or are not, desirable; I am only reminding the reader that a particular medicine is not to be mistaken for the elixir of life" (p. 102). Lewis explains that the world cannot give us peace/security, because "The security we crave would teach us to rest our hearts in the world and oppose an obstacle to our return to God" (p.103). God may grant a life full of joyous moments and experiences along the way, "but will not encourage us to mistake them for home." Jesus promised his disciples (and us) that he would send the Holy Spirit to be their "Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you" (Jn. 14:16-17). Brothers and Sisters, let us abide [hang out, lean on, cling to] the Advocate in Jesus the Christ. And may his peace equip you to be a healing presence in the world..

Pastor Carl

We Have Missionaries

That's right. Pleasant Valley UMC has four missionaries preparing to embark on a journey of grace and sharing the love of Jesus.

Many of you have already received a letter from Dan Abbott inviting you to support him in his mission to Mozambique. There he will join others in bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to children and adults who may never have had the opportunity to invite Jesus into their life. Dan will be on his way May 19th.

Some of you have heard that Evan Bailey will be joining pastor Carl and Diann Franson to Bolivia. Soon, you will be receiving a letter from Evan explaining that since he was twelve years old he has had a call to be a missionary. Evan will be graduating June 20th, only a few days before he boards a plane for Bolivia with the team of fourteen other Volunteers In Mission.

This is an opportunity to become a part of something bigger than all of us. This is an opportunity to make a difference in the world. Here is how you can help:

For Dan Abbott. Send checks made out to Beth Abbott, 2502 Echo Court, Rowlett, TX 75088. For Evan or Diann, send checks to Carl Franson, 417 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville CT 06039. Made out to UM Frontier Foundation.



United Methodist Women

April UMW News

The UMW met on Wednesday, April 6th, with 12 women in attendance. Laurie Fenner led us in Devotions. She shared with us some interesting facts about a woman named Dorcas from the book of Acts in Laurie's One Year Women of the Bible book. Dorcas was a very good person and did whatever she could to help others. It was very appropriate as we were going to be putting together our mission kits.

Joann Little gave the Mission Moment and read us a letter about UMCOR and how they are ministering to the people of Japan in light of their recent disaster. We learned that UMCOR is not part of the first responders but waits until most people have left and then steps in to help with the building up of things. UMCOR is there for people all over the world who have been touched by disasters.

We then had our business meeting. We are looking for ladies to take one month to lead us in crafts. Pat has the month of May and is looking for white buttons to make angel pins and sand dollars to make snowmen ornaments. If you like to embroider, see Pat also as she is putting together a really cute Advent calendar for our Christmas Fair.

We discussed our Mother's Day Tea which will be on Saturday, April 30th from 2-4pm. Becky Bridges designed a very cute Alice in Wonderland invitation and Kristin Stoeke printed them out and they were handed out in church. If you did not get one, know that you are invited and RSVP Kristin at 860-379-9569. Some of us will be dressed up and there will be crafts for the children and Moms to make. Lots of yummy food will be provided and a good time should be had by all. Leigh Allen will be there to take pictures.

We had refreshments provided by Laurie and Pat and then we put our Church World Service Kits together. We had several baby, health and school kits. Marie Phelps will see to it that they get to where they need to go.

Our next meeting will be a Pot Luck Supper on June 1st. Remember that UMW is open to ALL women of the church. We hope you can join us.

The Peace of Christ be with you,

Pat Allen

Vice-president UMW

One Great Hour of Sharing:

Thank you to all who donated to One Great Hour of Sharing. A total of **\$320.00** was collected. Your gifts lay the foundation for UMCOR to bring restoration, healing and hope for tomorrow. Thank you for giving generously.

Our Graduates: Kristen Green graduates from the University of New England in Biddeford, ME in May with a Bachelor of Science degree in Athletic Training and will continue in the Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program at UNE.



Mitchell Renfrew was the CIAC Scholar-Athlete for Northwestern and has reached the rank of Eagle Scout. A ceremony is planned for June 11th @ 6PM at the church. Everyone is welcome.

Evan Bailey will graduate and embark on a Mission to Bolivia, Jared Sullenburger will graduate this June and go on to do great things. We're so proud of all of you.

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

A Coffeehouse style evening of music & song

Featuring

*The Bending Birch
Allan & Ed*

*4th Day
Becky, Bill & Doug*

*Marimoments
Mari, Sue, Ed, Allan & Kristin*

When:
Where:

Saturday, June 4th 7:00 p.m.
Pleasant Valley Methodist Church
Rt 181, Pleasant Valley CT

Suggested donation: \$7 adults, children under 12 free

Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church
Rt. 181 * Pleasant Valley, CT

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 May 2011 Link

Council on Ministries met on April 12th to review recent events at church and to work on various plans as we move into our spring and summer months. Pastor Carl shared information regarding the upcoming One Day Leadership Retreat, scheduled for Saturday, April 16th. The day will begin with coffee and a snack then move on to a brief worship service in the Sanctuary. Throughout the morning the program will include a Spiritual Gifts Discovery component, and small group discussion. Following a light lunch, provided by various church members, the group will then talk about the vision for PVUMC in the future, what our church mission statement is, and what are some short and long term goals for our church family.

Pastor Carl mentioned some upcoming dates to keep in mind: May 15th Men's Tres Dias weekend, which Carl will attend with Rev. George Hilton filling the pulpit in Pleasant Valley, Annual Conference is set for June 8-11, Joann Little is our representative to this event, and Carl's trip to Bolivia soon after. Services for Holy Week were discussed, beginning with Palm Sunday, through Maundy Thursday's service, the Good Friday Prayer Vigil, and the Sunrise Service on Beach Rock. Carl will be preaching at the Sunrise Service, with support from the pastors at Congregational Church of Barkhamsted, and First Congregational Church of New Harford. Following the service our church will host the traditional community breakfast.

An on-going request to hold communion at the rail was discussed and it was decided that May 1st will be set in that manner. It will mean the communion rails will have to be move into place prior to Sunday morning.

The UMW reported on their completion of the Church World Service kits at their April meeting, and the plans in process for the annual Mother's Day Tea, scheduled for Saturday, April 30th.

Pastor Carl would like to attempt to bring the kids from the Confirmation Class to the Bishop's Conference Rally in Ridgefield, CT on May 14th. Because he will be attending the Men's Tres Dias weekend, he has requested help from some of the parents.

It is a pleasure to note that Evan Bailey is planning to accompany Pastor Carl and his team on the next Bolivia Mission experience in June. The Youth Group will be discussing ways in which they can help Evan with costs, or participate in a mission experience in some other way.

The vision for the Community Garden, as part of the Change the World project, is on-going, with discussion taking place at both the Administrative Board and Trustees meetings. A committee was formed at the Admin. Board meeting to looking into the specifics and make some recommendations as to how this might be accomplished. Stay tuned for more information as the process continues.

Under New Business it was noted that Mary Forman would like to host a Coffee House in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 28th. We'll be looking forward to the music and more details as the time gets closer. Another suggestion for future discussion was holding an Adult Sunday School classes. If this is something that would interest you, please speak with the Pastor.

Pleasant Valley UMC is now on **Facebook**. Look us up & "Friend" us. It's a great way to keep up on church events.



We're on the Web

www.pleasantvalleyumc.com

SPRING FAIR

On May 14th, our church will be hosting a Mother's Market, Tag Sale and Vendor Fair. This is a CHURCH FUND RAISER! We will be looking for people to help with the bake sale, kitchen, set-up and clean-up and we could also use help with putting the heavy signs out for advertisement. When you are cleaning remember that we will also be looking for tag sale and Mother's Market items. Used baby furniture or baby items need to be up to code. All things should be in good condition. We will also be looking for people to help us with setting up and overseeing these rooms the day before and of the Fair. Please say YES when you are asked to help and please spread the word as we would like this to be successful as the money will go to a new furnace for the Parish House. If you would like to save us the trouble of asking and would like to volunteer to do something, please speak to Mindy Henry, Pat Allen or Ann Kramer. Thank you in advance.

Helpers This Month

May Birthdays

Greeters

May 1 Ed Connors Family
8 Joann Little
15 Judy McKay
22 Lambert Family
29 Mary Lou Centofanti

Sanctuary Cleaning

May 1 Klein
8 Arnold
15 Arnold
22 Millahn
29 Millahn

Coffee Hour

May 1 **Pochie Montgomery,**
Peggy Arnold, Cathy Baum
8 **Janet LaGrange,** Sharon Foxx
15 **Bette Vasco,** Gail Klein,
Sandy Slemmer
22 **Judy McKay,** Barbara
Sherwin, Dawn Renfrew
29 **Janet Lucas,** Joann Little,
Becky Bridges

Counters

May 1 Ann Kramer & Mary Lou Centofanti
8 Becky Bridges & Steve Bailey
15 Emil Klein & John Baum
22 Mary Liz Simons & Gail Klein
29 Mary Lou Centofanti & Ted
Millahn

Ushers

May 1 Bill & Becky Bridges
8 Ann Kramer & Shirley Green
15 Sharon & Paul Foxx
22 Dawn & Wayne Renfrew
29 Gene deRoode & Wendy
Sullenburger

Acolyte

May 1 Sarah Lucas
8 Tom Fenn
15 Mackenzie Fenn
22 Victoria deRoode
29 Nathan Benham

May 5 **Marie Phelps**
7 **Carol Hewitt**
12 **Amanda Ritchie**
13 **Ed Connors**
Janet LaGrange
16 **John Baum**
19 **Leigh Allen**
20 **Karen Carvalho**
21 **Ashley Granquist**
23 **Beth Abbott**
Kathleen Chianese
24 **Derek Green**
Kara Vasko
28 **April Abbott**
31 **Nancy Winn**
Caitlin Zygmunt
Justin Abbott

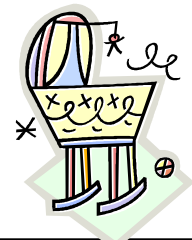


May Wedding Anniversaries

May 25 **Mary Liz & Chip Simons**
29 **Sue & Ed Zygmunt**

Nursery Care

May 1 Pippi Dickens
8 Pat Allen
15 Mindy Henry
22 Sharon Foxx
29 Peggy Arnold



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