

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 June & July*

June & July 2011

June 5: Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
June 12: Acts 2:1-21; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39
June 19: Genesis 1:1-2:4a; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
June 26: Genesis 22:1-14; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

July 3: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
July 10: Genesis 25:19-34; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 17: Genesis 28:10-19a; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
July 24: Genesis 29:15-28; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
July 31: Genesis 32:22-31; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

June 4 7:00 PM Coffee House-an evening of music & song
June 19 Father's Day
June 19 Peace With Justice Sunday
June 23 Pastor Carl & Diann Franson-Bolivia
July 18-22 Vacation Bible School

Friends are like the walls of a house. Sometimes they hold you up, sometimes you lean on them. But sometimes, it's enough to know they're just standing by.

Readers

- June 5: Gail Klein
 - June 12: Cathy Baum
 - June 19: Becky Bridges
 - June 26: John Baum
-
- July 3: Emil Klein
 - July 10: Joann Little
 - July 17: Paul Foxx
 - July 24: Jacque Williams
 - July 31: Youth



As we prepare to enjoy our summer, please don't forget that the church doesn't take a vacation. The church still needs you to keep your pledge current.

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(See Matthew 14:14-21)
YES I COULD MAKE FIVE THOUSAND OF THOSE, BUT A FEW FISH AND SOME BREAD MIGHT BE A BETTER OPTION

FROM THE



PASTOR

In just a few weeks, June 23, fifteen "Volunteers In Mission" will be leaving from JFK to embark on a mission trip to Cochabamba Bolivia. There, we will meet with and work with our Methodist brothers and sisters to continue our relationship that began in 2002 under the leadership of Bishop Jane Middleton (then District Superintendent of the Connecticut/New York District). The men, women and children of five Methodist churches will greet us at the airport with music, prayers and good will. Veteran and first time Volunteers will immediately notice the difference in color, size and dress of our hosts. They are dark skinned, quite short, (this makes Diann feel at home) and of course they speak different languages: Spanish, Quechua and Aymara. There are 34 other spoken languages in Bolivia! These obvious differences will cause us to think in terms of "Them" and "Us." We know that appearances need not influence our perception of others, especially because our Bolivian brothers and sisters have the same Wesleyan/Christian heritage. But...none-the-less, differences do have an effect on our ability to love one another as Jesus commands.

Bob Stevenson, a friend and a fellow Volunteer In Mission, has written his thoughts on the matter. I share with you:

"The greatest threats to peace on Earth are 'Them' and 'Us.' Since humans emerged on earth, we have been suspicious and fearful of those who are 'different.' It matters not whether the differences are in race, ethnicity, religion, size, shape, sexual preference or any of the numerous other things we see or sense about each other.

Over the years, 'We' have been taught that tolerance will bring peaceful coexistence with 'Them.' This too often is only a façade, though, that may suddenly evaporate as circumstances change.

If peace is to come, we must not just tolerate our differences, but celebrate them. We need to learn all we can about 'Them' and how they can enrich our lives."

The Kaleidoscope

A Modern Fable on Diversity

After creating the world, God saw that it was good. When God viewed this creation, the diversity of God's human children was especially pleasing as they interacted in all their variety of colors, sizes, shapes, languages and other differences.

It soon became apparent, however, that many humans did not appreciate the beauty of this diversity. They allowed it to become a source of conflict.

God considered this situation and realized it occurred because humans were unable to see the beautiful pictures diversity created. So in 1815, God caused Sir David Brewster, a licensed preacher and scientist from Scotland

to invent an instrument that would correct this. This God's-view instrument is what we call a kaleidoscope.

By turning the scope, we can cause small objects of various sizes, shapes and colors seen through the viewer to move and interact with each other. Stop and we can see a beautiful picture. Turn the scope again and each object moves on to form a new, beautiful picture – the way God sees us as we move through our lives throughout the world.

Encounter With Christ is the name of our mission to Bolivia. We encounter Christ in the people we work with, in the churches of Cochabamba, and they encounter Christ in us. Evan Bailey, Diann Franson and I will be a part of that experience. Please keep us all in prayer for safe travel and blessings as we continue Christ's mission to Bolivia.

God does see people differently than we do. May we begin to see others through God's-view, the kaleidoscope of grace, of possibility and transformation.

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.

You may have also 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

School supply needs in Cochabamba, Bolivia



These children look like they are having a lot of fun playing house. They are actually cleaning up after breakfast. They do this for lunch and snack time, too. And some of them won't eat again until they come back the next day.

We are traveling to Bolivia with a mission team to support the building of a new church and support the five Day Cares connected to the Methodist Churches in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Would you please help with supplies or money.... Thank you, Carl and Diann Franson.

glue sticks	school glue	scissors
pencils	colored pencils	markers
yarn	brads	stickers
felt	scotch tape	glitter
sidewalk chalk	pipe cleaners	chalk
heavy colored string for necklaces		foam sheets
lots of pony beads... all colors		rulers
large bottles of washable poster paints... all colors		
Legos	matchbox cars	Brio Trains
wood puzzles	children's books in Spanish	

We will be teaching Vacation Bible School to 120 children in the five churches while we are there. We will be leaving June 23, 2011.

You can contact us 860-596-4159

dfranson28@comcast.net or
face book... Diann Franson



United Methodist Women

May UMW News

The UMW met on Saturday, April 30, for their annual Mother's Day Tea. The theme was the Mad Hatter's Tea Party from the story of Alice in Wonderland. There were approximately 40 people who attended including the Mad Hatter, Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum, Alice, The Queen of Diamonds, a flamingo and the Door Mouse.

Ann Kramer painted a beautiful mural of the original tea party and the tables all looked like spring had finally arrived. We had a variety of tea sandwiches and finger food desserts. Everything was delicious.

The children made Mad Hatter hats out of paper bags and decorated them with tissue paper flowers, doilies, ribbons and butterflies which they made out of coffee filters and pipe cleaners. They also decorated sugar cookies with frosting and sprinkles.

Leigh Allen was our official photographer and took some great pictures. We hope you took time to see them hanging up in Fellowship Hall.

We ended our tea with a Mad Hatters parade of the children marching around the room wearing their hats. They all looked very cute.

If you didn't make this year's tea, we would encourage you to come next year. We always have a wonderful time. Kristin and Pochie did a great job in chairing this tea. We greatly appreciate all they and all their committee did.

Our next meeting will be June 1 with a pot luck supper at church. This will be our last meeting until September. All the ladies of the church are invited to attend. We love seeing new faces.

Peace be with you,
Pat Allen
UMW Vice-president

Coffee Hour: There will be no "formal" coffee hour over the summer, as most of us don't want to slave over a hot stove on a hot summer day. However, you are welcome to being in some light fare for all to enjoy if you are so inclined.

Spring Fair

We would like to thank all the people who made our Spring Fair fund raiser for the church a big success. We couldn't do it without everyone's help. Thank you all again.

Mindy Henry Ann Kramer Pat Allen

Our Graduates: We'd like to wish all who are graduating this year. We know all of you will go on to do great things. 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 plans to attend Endicott College in Mass. Evan Bailey will graduate and embark on a Mission to Bolivia, after which he will attend Northwest Community College. Jared Sullenburger will graduate this June and attend Tunxis College. We'd like to recognize Ali O'Brien and Alison Olivieri. We're so proud of all of you.



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

All are welcome to join us to recognize the achievements of Mitchell Renfrew. His family is proud to announce he has reached the rank of Eagle Scout. A reception in his honor will be held at the Pleasant Valley UMC on June 11, 2011, at 6 pm. RSVP to Dawn at 860-379-8649 if you will attend. Way to go Mitchell.

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 June 2011 Link

Council on Ministries met on May 10th. Skylar Zygmont brought forward a fundraising idea for the Youth Group. She spoke about providing babysitting services for “date night” for parents. Although the plans are still in the discussion stage, their intent is for the youth to entertain children, providing a light supper meal, from about 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, perhaps one evening a month. There would be adult volunteers present to ensure that Safe Sanctuaries is covered. Money raised from this activity would be designated toward missions or toward helping pay for supplies for Sunday School or VBS. COM approved the idea and suggested that the Youth Group continue with their plans and keep COM updated on their decisions.

Pastor Carl shared the information that the Confirmation Class is winding up their course of study which will culminate on June 12th when the students join the church membership. Annual Conference is set for June 8th – 11th, with Joann Little acting as the Lay Delegate this year. The Bolivia Mission trip is scheduled for June 23rd – July 9th. Pastor Carl will be providing a list of items as suggestions for donations to their mission trip. This year they will have 3 suitcases to fill and all donations will be gratefully accepted.

The UMW was pleased with their Annual Mother’s Day Tea event, held recently. It was well attended and everyone had a good time. The next meeting will be a potluck supper on June 1st.

There was a Worship Committee meeting recently after church. Discussion included providing a welcoming environment, providing nursery care, music and choir, and communion. It has been suggested that a way be found to record the worship services, or at least the sermons, to be available to folks who can’t make it to church. Bill and Becky Bridges are working on that project.

Mindy Henry shared some information about Sunday School for the next year. She plans to break the classes as follows: kindergarten, first and second grades being taught by Jennifer Benham, third, fourth, and fifth grades taught by Karen Civelli and Laurie Fenner, grades six through eight taught by Janet Lucas. She is still wondering how to handle the high school classes and will be in discussion with Pastor Carl over the summer. Mindy has also volunteered to take over the Youth Group and will begin regular meetings toward the end of the summer. She has a lot of plans for programs and activities and is very enthusiastic about getting started. VBS is scheduled for July 18th – 22nd this year with the program “Shake It Up Café: Where kids carry out God’s recipe”. She will be looking for volunteers to help with the many tasks needed to make this week-long event fun for everyone.

Discussion was held about the dispersement of the proceeds from the Easter breakfast, about \$100. It was suggested that 10% as tithe should go to apportionments with the remainder being divided between Evan Bailey and Dan Abbott to support their mission activities. John Baum will make this recommendation to the Finance committee.

The July 4th parade was discussed and it was noted that volunteers will be needed if our church is to have some kind of representation in this annual event.

The first Bean Hole Bean Supper will occur on May 21st and people are already calling for reservations. Volunteers are still needed to help with the many tasks that need to be done.

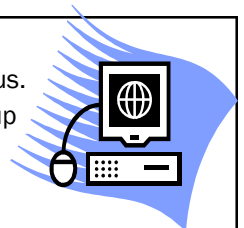
Beanhole Bean Suppers: The dates for the 2011 Beanhole Bean Suppers have been set. Mark your calendars!:

September 24th

October 29th



Pleasant Valley UMC is now on **Facebook**. Look us up & “like” us. It’s another great way to keep up on church events.



We're on the Web

www.pleasantvalleyumc.com

Helpers - June & July

Greeters

<u>June</u>	5	Ann Kramer
	12	Janet Lee
	19	Pat Allen
	26	Margo fenn
<u>July</u>	3	Barbara & Chuch Sherwin
	10	Pudge & Ted Millahn
	17	Janet & Jay LaGrange
	24	Crystal DiYulio
	31	Cathy & John Baum

Sanctuary Cleaning

<u>June</u>	5 & 12	Baum
	19 & 26	Carvalho
<u>July</u>	3 & 10	McKay
	17 & 24	Sherwin
	31	Civelli

Coffee Hour

June	5	Margo Fenn , Kate Fenn, Suzanne Gerber-Hurley
	12	Hosted By Sunday School Children & Staff
No Coffee Hour for Summer		

Counters

<u>June</u>	5	Emil Klein & Steve Bailey
	12	Becky Bridges & Mary Lou Centofanti
	19	Gail Klein & Ted Millahn
	26	John Baum & Mary Liz Simons
<u>July</u>	3	Ann Kramer & Gail Klein
	10	Steve Bailey & Becky Bridges
	17	Ted Millahn & Mary Lou Centofanti
	24	Mary Liz Simons & Emil Klein
	31	Gail Klein & John Baum

Ushers

<u>June</u>	5	Barbara & Steve Bailey
	12	Bill & Becky Bridges
	19	Ann Kramer & Shirley Green
	26	Sharon & Paul Foxx
<u>July</u>	3	Dawn & Wayne Renfrew
	10	Gene deRoode & Wendy Sullenberger
	17	Barbara & Steve Bailey
	24	Bill & Becky Bridges
	31	Ann Kramer & Shirley Green

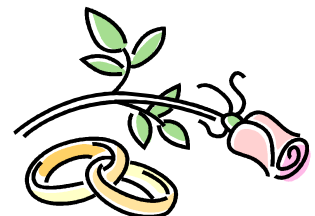
Birthdays

<u>June</u>	5	Joann Little	<u>July</u>	2	Ray Abbott
	2	Jimmy Rogers		6	Jay Bullard
	6	Mindy-Lee Church			Bridie Rogers
	6	Judy Church		7	Heather McIlroy
		Nicholas Collins		9	Melanie Kirkpatrick
	9	Judy McKay			David
	11	Stephen Derochick		10	Todd Dyer
	12	George Vincent		11	Anthony Scirpo
	14	Terri Collins		12	Thomas Henry
	19	Janet Lucas		17	Penny Lee Church
		Austin Stoeke		19	Samantha Stoeke
	20	Grace Joh		20	Karina Dyer
	22	Ted Millahn		21	Shirley Green
	24	Sharon Foxx		23	Barbara Bailey
	27	Spenser Renfrew			Emma Grandquist
	29	Ted Church		27	Ed Zygmont



Wedding Anniversaries

<u>June</u>	14	Bette & Vince Vasko	<u>July</u>	16	Margo & Jim Fenn
	15	Judy & Ted Church		17	Nancy & Laurence Winn
	17	Kate & Andy Fenn		31	Shirley & Alan Green
	24	Barbara & Chuck Sherwin			
	25	Karen & Wayne Civelli			
	30	Mindy & George Henry			



Nursery Care

June	5	Crystal DiYulio	July	3	Pat Allen
	12	Barbara Bailey		10	Sharon Foxx
	19	Mindy Henry		17	Peggy Arnold
	26	Pippi Dickens		24	Crystal DiYulio



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