

The monthly newsletter of the Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church

# The Link

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Office Phone (860) 379-2157

## Worship Services

Sundays 9:30 AM

## Church Office Hours

Monday-Wednesday-Friday 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Address Service Requested

## Lectionary Readings Sundays in August

- August 7, 2011: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-23
- August 14, 2011: Genesis 45:1-15; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28
- August 21, 2011: Exodus 1:8-2:10; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20
- August 28, 2011: Exodus 3:1-15; Romans 12:12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

## August 2011

## Special Days & Offerings

August 7 4:00 PM Float Fest  
(see article inside for more information)

The best mathematical equation I have ever seen:  
1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given



Hope you're enjoying your summer, but please don't forget that the church doesn't take a vacation. The church still needs you to keep your pledge current.



## Readers

- August 7 Becky Bridges
- August 14 Gail Klein
- August 21 John Baum
- August 28 Ann Kramer

**We're on the Web**

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



FROM THE



PASTOR

It's good to be back from Bolivia!! Diann and I extend out thanks to all the people who gave us so much support for this mission to the churches of Cochabamba. Our suitcases were stuffed with supplies that you provided. Just imagine, approximately 750 pounds of school supplies coming from the home churches of our 15 missionaries that included four youth: our own Evan Bailey and three girls from Pennsylvania. After some prayerful thought, we delivered the prayer shawl coming from the loving hands of Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church. The woman, Ruth, who received it is the one who began a ministry in her neighborhood that grew to the point of planting a new church, Luz de Vida (Light of Life).

One cold night, Ruth and her husband were leading a Bible study when someone came knocking on their door. When she opened the door, there were several children asking for something to eat. The children were shivering from the cold as well as being very hungry. Ruth gave them a hot drink and some bread. After that night, Ruth and her husband started plans for providing food for the children's stomachs and a place to teach them the ways of Jesus. So they converted their garage into a Sanctuary, and they named the new church Luz de Vida. That was 2007. since then, the children have been going to Sunday School and some of the parents have been attending this tiny church for worship.

In 2007 Diann made two banners to give away to this new congregation. One banner has a cross on it with the words in Spanish, "For Me," the other banner has a circle of different colored hands with the words "Good Needs Our Hands." That was the theme for this year's Vacation Bible School.

Ruth is the principal at the neighborhood school as well as being a Lay Leader at the "Mother Church," Emmanuel. She has had many trials and tribulations trying to keep this congregation together. Most of the people who make up the congregation have no experience at being the church. Consequently, much of the burden rests on her. She is also the Lay Leader at Emmanuel.

On the Wednesday before leaving Cochabamba, we visited Ruth in her home. It was a little chilly inside as we sat in the living room talking about her work in the two churches. Diann then took the prayer shawl and placed it on Ruth as she explained the meaning of this ministry, and told about the small group of women at home who have made many, with their hands to bring prayerful comfort to those who receive them.

Ruth's eyes beamed as she ran her hands up and down the shawl and exclaimed how warm it made her feel. We ended our visit with a prayer thanking God

For the gift of ministry and for helping us be servants of the gospel in Pleasant Valley and in Cochabamba.

Thanks again for your loving support.

Pastor Carl

**Vacation Bible School:** VBS had 27 kids this year from 3 years old to 6th grade. The kids had a great time with "Shake It Up Cafe where kids carry out God's recipe." Even with the heat no one wanted to miss the experience to learn about God. We made several "manna bags" and please feel free to take one to give to a needy person. The kids brought in many items to give to the food bank. Our mission this year was to feed the hungry. I want to thank all the people who helped me make this year a success. A special thank you to all the youth, the Benham's, Lucas's, Bridges, Pat Allen, Angela Root, Lori Fenner, Karen Civelli and the Gerber-Hurley's. Mindy Henry

The Good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose,  
But mosquitoes come close.

Dear PVUMC!!

I wanted to take some time and give you a bit of an update on my time here in Mozambique serving with Iris Ministries. I have now been here for about a month and I have seen things that I have only previously heard of through other people's testimonies. The miracles that I have seen range from the multiplication of food too people that were once blind being able to see again. It is amazing to see the desperation of the people, and how God is more than faithful to meet their physical needs as well as their spiritual needs.



I have had the opportunity to be apart of two weekend outreaches. The main focus of these outreaches is to play a Jesus film in the native language, which is Makua. From there we proceed to preach the gospel and ask anyone that feels lead to give their life to Jesus. We then pray for anybody who is sick with anything; from the common cold, to being lame, deaf, or blind. The power of God has been amazing to see, as he not only works through the students here, but also through the children of Mozambique.

The greatest encouragement that I have received from God is that these miracles are not just for this area of Mozambique. The love and healing power of Jesus is meant to be seen and heard anywhere the gospel is preached. I am extremely excited to see the miracles that God has in store for us in good old Pleasant Valley Connecticut. I pray that even as you read this letter that the Holy Spirit will fall upon you and new and amazing way.

Many Blessings, Dan Abbott

## NOTES FROM THE NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE of THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - JUNE 2011

A blessed time was had by all! There was a spirit filled atmosphere throughout the 4 days of the meeting and all attendees heard the word of God in so many ways; in sermons, song, ordination of new clergy, and even in the business portions of the conference.

Bishop Jeremiah J. Park presided with passion, grace, and spiritual zeal and inspired all of us to open our hearts and minds to greater opportunities to spread God's word. The theme of the conference was "For Such a Time as This: We are Heart Warmed United Methodists in Mission".

Those present were exhorted to follow Christ's great commission: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Matt. 28:19

We were told to prepare ourselves to be holy, as God requires holy helpers to carry out His work. By committing ourselves, we must always be available, giving of what is required to all people, not just people like us, but those of different colors, ethnicity, the poor, the homeless, the unattractive. The very heart of missions is human contact, to reach out and touch another life, thereby allowing Christ to make a difference in that life.

Another subject that was stressed was the non-growth of our churches. We need to bring new people into our congregations. The need for more young people to fill the gaps and carry on the work that has been started should be uppermost in the minds of all members, otherwise the Church and all it stands for will wither away. How can we, as God's children, let this happen? We have to step beyond ourselves and restore and regenerate our local church by bringing new people to Sunday morning services, to plant the seed of the gospel where ever we might find ourselves, even in the most casual of conversations, thereby allowing the Holy Spirit do His work.

The business portions of the conference were held daily and elections, petitions, and reports of various committees were given by clergy and laity. There were many different groups which held meetings throughout the 4 days to decide their special issues and some presented these findings in the form of petitions for the entire assembly to vote on. There were also ballots for General/Jurisdictional Delegates which were also voted on.

One new feature this year was the implementation of hand-held remotes which were handed out to all upon registration. This was a great time saver since this enabled everyone's vote to be immediately tallied on 2 large screens in the front of the arena. Previously in years past, all votes were paper ballots which took time to count.

There were booths of our various missions exhibiting beautiful clothing and other items made by the Christian craftspeople from the many countries in our overseas mission groups. Our own Pastor Carl manned a booth filled with a multitude of handmade items from Bolivia. He was a great salesman! There was also a Cokesbury Book Store which was very popular.

All in all, God's Holy Spirit generated new ideas, spiritual renewal, and a feeling of oneness in all who attended. Thanks be to God!

Joann Little, Lay Delegate

### COMMUNITY FOOD BANK NEEDS LIST

For the first time since opening in 1995, the food bank is running out of some staple food items we offer. The warehouse where we shop and have been able to purchase food and personal items for 16 cents a pound no longer is able to secure bulk food salvage. This is leaving us with a critical shortage. Here is a list of items we are low or out of. Please help if you can. Thank you.



- Juice - jelly - tuna fish in water - spaghetti sauce - flavored rice - crackers
- Brownie mix - cookies - canned pasta - instant potatoes - canned beets, cream corn, sauerkraut, spinach - tea bags
- Personal items - Kleenex - deodorant - shampoo - shaving cream - razors

**Portraits:** Some portraits of church founders dating back several years were recently discovered in the church. Anyone with input as to what we should do with them, please speak with Peggy or any Trustee. Also, they are in need of a good cleaning, so if you could assist in that, it would be appreciated.

Adult Choir resumes in September. If one wishes to sing an anthem with the choir, the minimum commitment is two Sundays in a row (one Sunday to rehearse, one Sunday to polish and present). Participation can be occasional and intermittent. Rehearsals will be held Sunday mornings in the sanctuary, before service, and will begin promptly at 8:15am and end at 9:15. First rehearsal will be Sept.11; the first sung anthem will be Sept 18. Hope to see you there.



Karl Gallmeyer

*COM Article for August 2011 Link*

Council on Ministries took the month of July off, so a brief recap of the last meeting in June follows. Pastor Carl spoke about the upcoming mission trip to Bolivia, who would be in the pulpit on the Sundays that he will be gone, and who should be contacted for coverage during his absence. He also spoke about the Annual Conference and the events that took place there, and at home, causing him to have to leave the conference early. Joann Little was our Lay Delegate to the conference and she shared some of her thoughts about the programs she encountered. A report from the UMW was offered and more details about that can be found in the UMW News update in this Link edition. Thoughts on a summer Bible study were discussed and Cathy will look into some study guides regarding prayer. It was reported that plans are coming together for VBS. Mindy has indicated she wishes to no longer act as coordinator for the Nursery and Carl spoke about asking someone else to take over that duty. Discussion continued about the plans to bring audio connection into the Nursery and it was shared that a monetary donation had been given to help fund this project. Someone is needed to organize marchers for the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade in Pleasant Valley.

The Bean Hole Supper Committee met and came to some decisions as we move forward in the fall. There will again be three (3) seating's, at 5:00, 6:00, and 7:00 PM. It was determined that better communication among the committee heads regarding any changes in times, pricing, etc. is much needed. This would be facilitated if a general chairperson could be found.

A suggestion was made to create an outreach program that would work on bringing new people into the church. It might be as easy as everyone simply inviting someone to come with them to church, but the thought was that a specific program and committee was needed to ensure that something is done.

As Summer continues on and we move further along toward Rally Day in September and the beginning of the fall activities at church, please keep in mind that more help is needed in planning and directing the ministries of PVUMC. If you have an interest in where our church is going, and how we're going to get there, please plan to attend the Council on Ministries meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. Your support participation, ideas, and suggestions are encouraged and most welcome.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Parish House.

**UMW News for August Link**

The UMW met in June before taking the summer months off. Ten ladies gathered at Jennie Peck's home to share a potluck supper meal before a business meeting. Ruth led us with a prayer of thanksgiving, and Joann shared a Devotion concerning prayer. To help us remember some of the important components of prayer she shared the following acronym, ACTS, which stands for adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication.



Our business meeting was a wrap-up for the year, as we discussed the recent Mother's Day Tea and suggestions to make it run more smoothly next year; and the dispersal of the Church Family Fund. We spoke about helping Evan Bailey with his Bolivia Mission expenses, and voted to give him \$300. In an effort to seek out interesting programming ideas for the fall, Joann suggested contacting a woman she had met who sews garments for children in Haiti. It was recommended that Joann get additional information about the organization and mission that this lady supports and we'll make a decision at our first meeting in the fall.

We will begin our monthly meetings in September when we'll gather on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are invited to come join us. September is a great time to reconnect, find out what everyone did for the summer, and then begin to plan what path our meetings will follow as we continue on our journey in faith. Why not come see what

**Spilling the Beans :** The May Bean Hole Bean Supper raised \$1820 to support the mission and ministries of our church. Revenues totaled \$3406 and costs totaled \$1586. Thanks to all who support this community wide effort. Two Bean Hole bean Suppers are scheduled for this Fall: September 24 and October 29. We will return to the traditional 5, 6, and 7 o'clock sittings. The EZ-up canopy that shelters our dedicated team of bean scooper uppers from the sun and the rain is in dire need of replacement. Your donation of a new 10 by 10 or 12 by 12 canopy would be greatly appreciated. These are available from Job Lot for \$68 and \$88 respectively for the standard version.

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

September 24th  
October 29th



**Help Wanted:** Due to travel plans, Cathy Baum reports that she will not be able to take Bean Hole Bean Supper reservations after Wednesday night, 9/21 (for the 9/24 supper). We need someone to cover the time period from Thursday to Saturday afternoon. Please see Cathy if you can help (379-9398). Our loyal Bean Hole Bean Supper customers are a pleasure to deal with over the phone. The Bean Hole Bean Supper Saturday Morning Kitchen Crew is seeking a new chairperson. Interested? See John Baum

## Helpers in August



# August

## Birthdays

### Greeters

August 7	Terri Collins
14	The Civelli Family
21	Michael Derochick Family
28	The Benham Family

### Sanctuary Cleaning

August 7	Civelli
August 14 & 21	Lucas
August 28	Fenner

### Coffee Hour

Coffee hour during the summer is provided by volunteers. A new schedule will be available in September. If you would like to volunteer for a Sunday Coffee hour, please see Janet LaGrange.

### Counters

August 7	Ann Kramer & Becky Bridges
14	Emil Klein & Steve Bailey
21	John Baum & Gail Klein
28	Steve Bailey & Mary Lou Centofanti

### Ushers

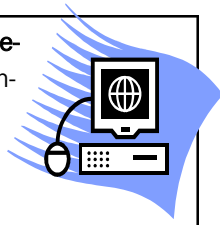
August 7	Sharon & Paul Foxx
14	Dawn & Wayne Renfrew
21	Gene deRoode & Wendy Sullenberger
28	Barbara & Steve Bailey

### Acolytes

August 7	Mackenzie Fenn
14	Victoria deRoode
21	Nathan Benham
28	Samantha Benham



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



Please have all articles for the next newsletter to Sharon by **August 15, 2011**. Send to [psfoxx@att.net](mailto:psfoxx@att.net) or leave in Secretary mailbox in library

<b>August 1</b>	<b>Eric Lambert</b>
<b>August 2</b>	<b>Chaz Zygmunt</b>
<b>August 4</b>	<b>Linda Winstead</b>
	<b>Shelley Bailey</b>
	<b>Tom Lucas</b>
	<b>Richard Lavieri</b>
<b>August 5</b>	<b>Greg O'Brien</b>
<b>August 6</b>	<b>Kristen Green</b>
	<b>Linne Landgraf</b>
<b>August 8</b>	<b>Karen Civelli</b>
<b>August 14</b>	<b>Carter Peck</b>
<b>August 16</b>	<b>Matthew Civelli</b>
<b>August 18</b>	<b>Larry Winn</b>
<b>August 20</b>	<b>Travis Layton</b>
<b>August 25</b>	<b>Cathy Baum</b>
	<b>David Stoeke</b>
	<b>Victoria deRoode</b>
<b>August 29</b>	<b>Tom Bailey</b>



## Wedding Anniversaries

<b>August 3</b>	<b>Pat &amp; Leigh Allen</b>
<b>August 8</b>	<b>"Pudge" &amp; Ted Millahn</b>
<b>August 11</b>	<b>Cathy &amp; John Baum</b>
	<b>Shelley &amp; Tom Bailey</b>
<b>August 12</b>	<b>Janet &amp; Tom Lucas</b>
<b>August 23</b>	<b>Karen &amp; Rui Carvalho</b>
<b>August 25</b>	<b>Dawn &amp; Wayne Renfrew</b>



### Nursery Care

August 7	Pippi Dickens
14	Pat Allen
21	Sharon Foxx
28	Peggy Arnold



**Nursery Help:** Our nursery is in desperate need of Caregivers and Assistants to be placed on the rotation schedule. To be in compliance with Safe Sanctuary guidelines, we need two people in Nursery. Anyone utilizing the nursery is expected to contribute to the schedule. Please contact Peggy (860-738-9332) if you are willing to help parents of young children attend Sunday Services.