

The monthly newsletter of the Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 181
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063
Carl Franson, Pastor
Sharon Foxx, Editor
(psfoxx@att.net)

Office Phone (860) 379-2157



The Link

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 October

October 2011



Special Days & Offerings

*October 2 World Communion Sunday
October 16 Laity Sunday*

- October 2, 2011: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
- October 9, 2011: Exodus 32:1-14; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
- October 16, 2011: Exodus 33:12-23; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
- October 23, 2011: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46
- October 30, 2011: Joshua 3:7-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

Worship Committee Meeting: the Worship Committee will meet after church on October 2nd. We'll be planning the Laity Sunday service, to take place on 10/16.

Readers

- October 2 Nick Peck
- October 9 Becky Bridges
- October 16 John Baum
- October 23 Youth
- October 30 Cathy Baum



**American
Red Cross**

.Blood Drive: The PVUMC Blood drive will be Saturday, October 1, 2011, from 8:00-1:00pm. For an appointment call 1800-GIVE LIFE, or make an

appointment with Janet Lagrange. Please help to make this blood drive successful.

We're on the Web

www.pleasantvalleyumc.com



This year Rally Day and the beginning of the Sunday School year was a big success. It was wonderful to welcome all the children back to church and share a fun-filled meal with the families. Our thanks to all who brought wonderful food to share and for making the day a success.

FROM THE



PASTOR

Pastor's Link

I was watching a segment on CNN the other night regarding people who made a positive difference in the lives of others. Immediately I thought of Mrs. Darnell, a second grade teacher of mine in Bloomfield New Jersey, back about 1949-50.

You see, I had recently arrived on the shores of the U.S. coming from this beautiful, pristine town in Sweden named Mariestad. That name still conjures up images of home sweet home for me.

I Googled Mariestad and found this: "The small, pretty lakeside town...with its splendid medieval quarter and harbor area...excellent base for a day or two exploration..." I truly believed my parents had gone bonkers coming to Brooklyn first and then to New Jersey?

Anyway, I was a very timid and bashful child of seven years. I had warts on both hands, so no one would hold my hands during those awful circle dances we did back then. The boys wanted nothing to do with me. At least the girls had compassion on me and would invite me to play girl games with them, so long as I didn't touch them with my "wart" hands. I did not speak English very well and I learned almost nothing about reading in first grade. First grade, for me, was more about self preservation. You know, when you are different, i.e., different skin color, different clothing, different accent or language, kids pick up on that and do all they can to make you suffer or make you to become like them. I had no desire to become like them. I only wanted to go home [Mariestad].

I don't know if it was a sense of duty or compassion or a combination of both, but Mrs. Darnell worked with me, every day after classes, teaching me how to read. I only remember feeling her love for me, not much more do I remember. Some how, by the end of second grade, I was reading, reading so well that she had me read to the third grade class from their own book! Well done Mrs. Darnell where ever you are.

It's my estimation that maybe only 1-2% of men and women go back and thank their teachers, mentors, boy/girl scout leaders, etc. But here is where I'm going with this. If you want to be fulfilled and happy in life, you will do something to practice "active loving" in your family, community, school, church, or other benevolent organizations. I picked up this term, "active loving," at Annual Conference during a presentation on John Wesley. Active loving is reaching out to others with compassion and kindness, and focusing on the needs people who could use a little help, emotionally, spiritually, financially or materially. The point of the presentation was that

"active loving" leads to a life of joy and happiness.

Recently, I read about a woman who was suffering with a rather painful condition. She went to doctor after doctor and none could help her. Finally a friend sent her to a holy man. At last she would speak to someone who could understand her pain. After sharing her story with the holy man, he stood up and sternly said, "Stop feeling sorry for yourself, and get out there [in the world] and start performing small acts of generosity and kindness wherever you go. Startled, at first, she started following his advice. Over time the pain left her for good. In fact she started an organization that put into practice the very same things that the holy man suggested.

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul encouraged his friends to practice active loving by first changing how they think: "If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind" (Philippians 2:1-2). Notice that Paul is joyful even though he is in prison! "Being...of one mind" does not mean being an automaton; it means becoming Christ like with your specific God given gifts and distinctiveness. This is how it's done: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4). Isn't that the most counterintuitive thing you have ever heard? Try it and I promise you will find joy in your life.

By the way, Mrs. Darnell, you made a huge difference in my life and I know you have had a life of joy teaching kids like me to read. I love you and Jesus loves you too.

Pastor Carl

Beanhole Bean Suppers:

The final Beanhole Bean Supper for 2011 will be on Saturday, October 29th. Mark your calendar. Remember: these wonderful beans also freeze well, so pick some up and freeze them to enjoy all winter long.





UMW News

September UMW News

The UMW met on Wednesday, September 7th, at 6:30 for their first meeting of the year. 13 women were in attendance. Ruth led us in grace and then we all enjoyed a delicious pot luck supper.

Joann led us in Devotion, the subject of which was New Beginnings, as we were beginning a new year for UMW. She compared the subject to the Apostle Paul who traveled extensively, stopping all along the way to establish new churches. He provided new beginnings at each church he established She encouraged us to assess ourselves to see if we can be a little more like Paul by giving a little more of ourselves in our daily lives. She then closed us in prayer.

Our business meeting consisted of old and new business. It was reported that the Christmas Fair crafts were coming along well and that a few woman have been meeting twice a week to work on items. If any women have ideas for crafts, please see Margo, Janet La Grange or Pat.

The UMW will be purchasing a new outdoor sign for general church use to announce upcoming events as the old sign is in poor condition.

Poochie and Joann are looking into a program for our October meeting and they are also going to investigate some programs which are district UMW provide. If anyone has an idea or suggestion for a program please see a member of the UMW. We are always open to new ideas and would love to see some new faces at our meetings. The UMW is a great way to meet and get to know other women from the church better. We always have great fellowship and a delicious snack.

Our meeting ended with Ruth leading us in prayer as we have many in our church family who are undergoing serious medical conditions and need all the prayers that we can say.

Our next meeting will be October 5th, at 7:00. We would love to see as many church women there as possible.

May the Peace of Jesus Christ be with you,

Pat Allen

Vice-president UMW

World Communion Sunday

October 2nd is World Community Sunday. This is a time to be in communion with Christians all over the world and to enable us to "press on toward the goal" of serving God in life-changing ministries.



When churches take the offering for this special Sunday, the proceeds provides ethnic scholarships for international and United States racial and ethnic minority graduate students and scholarships for racial and ethnic minority persons seeking second careers in church-related vocations.

Fifty per cent of the special offering goes to the [World Communion Scholarship Program](#) of the General Board of Global Ministries. These scholarships enable persons from churches in nations other than the United States and from ethnic and racial minorities in the United States to prepare for leadership in mission in church and society.

From Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe and the Middle East, as well as from racial and ethnic minorities in the United States, Crusade scholars are committed to the life and mission of the Church, as well as to its ministry to society and the world. Since the inception of the program in 1944, the Crusade Scholarship Program has funded nearly 4,000 students.

Special offering envelopes will be available for your donations.

Treat Your Bible like your cell phone

What if we carried our cell phone around in our purse or pocket? What if we turned back to get it if we forgot it? What if we flipped through it several times a day? What if we used it to receive messages? What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it? What if we gave it to our kids as gifts? What if we used it in case of an emergency? Hmmm...

Laity Sunday is a special Sunday established by the General Conference to be observed on the third Sunday in October. Laity Sunday Focuses on the celebration of the Ministry of all lay Christians. This day is Sometimes observed by having Lay persons Lead all parts of the worship service. So



As congregations gather to observe Laity Sunday, reflect on the special gifts our people in the pews have given us.

COM Article for October 2011 Link

Council on Ministries met on September 13th. Pastor Carl was unable to be with the group as he had a prior commitment at the Conference level. Some dates to remember were discussed: World Communion Sunday on October 2nd, Laity Sunday on October 16th, and All Saints' Day on November 6th. The Worship Committee will meet to work on the service with Cathy Baum, Lay Leader. The UMW reported a good beginning to their meetings for the year, with good attendance at their potluck supper, and some interesting programs coming along.

It was noted with concern that there is quite low attendance for Sunday School. Where are all the children and families with children? Hopefully, it will pick up as the weeks go along. The Sunday School children and staff, along with all the church membership, are keeping Karen Civelli and her family in their prayers.

The Youth Group will begin their activities by coordinating the Operation Christmas Child endeavor. Flyers have already been included in the church bulletins, and empty shoeboxes are being collected and decorated in preparation. Mindy Henry has lots of great activities planned for the Youth Group and we'll be looking forward to hearing about their plans and offering our support as time goes along.

The Float Fest has been rescheduled for Sunday, October 2nd, at Burr Pond. Anyone with a kayak, canoe, or sailboat is welcome to meet at 1:00 PM at the boat launch and enjoy the afternoon in God's wonderful world. This event is weather permitting.

Flood Buckets have been requested from the CT/NY Conference area, and John will place a bucket in church to collect any monetary donations. Specific items needed for Flood Buckets are listed in the bulletin insert and will be gratefully accepted as well.

The next COM meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11th at 7:00 PM in the Parish House. Everyone is welcome to come and work together to ensure that PVUMC continues to be an active and vital part of the community and a center for spiritual growth.

PVUMC has a lot of opportunities for prayers to be offered for friends, family, and loved ones. As we all know, prayer WORKS and so it is vitally important for everyone to know whom to call or where to turn at times of stress. Here are some good places to start (please clip this out and hang it on your 'frig; you never know when you'll need to use this information).

Our **Prayer Chain** is a group of members of the congregation who, at the ring of the phone, will bombard heaven with prayers for your loved ones. Penny Church is the main contact for the group, and she will forward the need in a cascading line until everyone on the Prayer Chain has been contacted. The main goal of these prayer warriors is to bring the name of your loved one front and center to God, thanking Him for His love, asking for His blessing, and praying for the successful outcome of the situation. The Prayer Chain is printed below to help you make a connection.



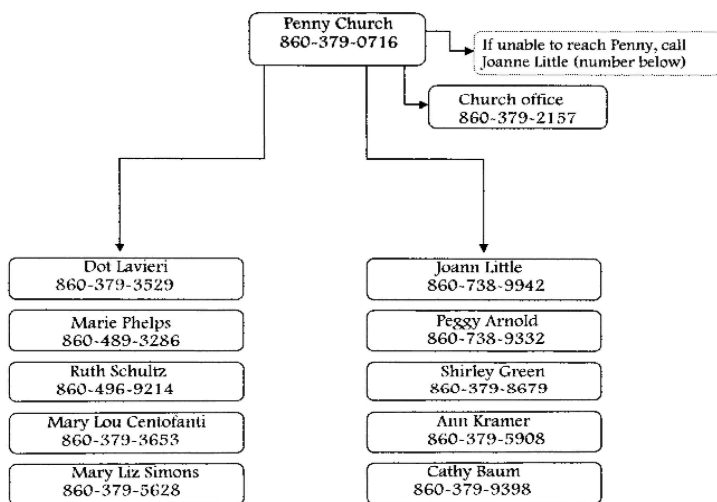
Another way that prayers can be offered is by use of our **Prayer Board**, which is located in the Narthex of the church. You'll find the board hanging on the wall just by the double doors to the hallway. Cards, on the small table below, are available to be completed and hung on the board. Pudge Millahn maintains this board, and will mail a card of comfort to let folks know that they are in the prayers of PVUMC.

Of course, prayers for your loved ones can be offered during Joys and Concerns in the worship service. Simply jot down your prayer request on the sheets at the back of the sanctuary and Pastor Carl will read them and raise them during the Pastoral Prayer. Special prayers can also be shared on Communion Sundays with the 'prayer partners' who are ready, willing, and able to spend some quality time with you.

The **Tuesday Morning Prayer Group** meets each Tuesday morning in the Parish House, beginning at 9:30 AM. This group consists of a number of dedicated people who come together in a spirit of faith to study the word of God, using The Upper Room devotionals. Although our main focus is Bible study, we always offer prayers for those people who are in need, and many times will mail cards of comfort along as well. The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** is another way that prayers can be offered, along with a tangible prayer shawl, which will, hopefully, bring comfort to those in distress. If you want more information about the Prayer Shawl Ministry, speak with Margo Fenn.

Should you have any questions about any of these groups, would like to be a part of these important ministries, or simply need to communicate a need to someone, these groups are a good place to start. Everyone needs prayers at one time or another, and prayer is a great case of 'more is definitely better'.

PVUMC Prayer Chain



Helpers in October

Greeters

October	2	The Lavieri Family
	9	The deRoode Family
	16	Gail & Emil Klein
	23	The Henry Family
	30	The Fenner Family

Sanctuary Cleaning

October	2	Foxx
	9	Peck
	16	Kramer
	23	McKay
	30	Allen

Coffee Hour

October	2	Cathy Baum , Peggy Arnold, Beth Lambert
	9	Ann Kramer , Karen Civelli, Sandy Slemmer
	16	Joann Little , Penny Church, Mindy Church
	23	Marie Phelps , Shelley Bailey, Robyn Lyons
	30	Pat Allen , Mary Lou Centofanti, Tish Tubman

Counters

October	2	Mary Liz Simons & Mary Lou Centofanti
	9	Emil Klein & Becky Bridges
	16	John Baum & Ted Millahn
	23	Ann Kramer & Steve Bailey
	30	Gail Klein & Mary Lou Centofanti

Ushers

October	2	Gene & Wendy deRoode
	9	Barbara & Steve Bailey
	16	Bill & Becky Bridges
	23	Ann Kramer & Shirley Green
	30	Sharon & Paul Foxx

Acolytes

October	2	Austin Stoeke
	9	Justin Lucas
	16	Sarah Lucas
	23	Tom Fenn
	30	Mackenzie Fenn

Birthdays

October	4	Wayne Civelli Sarah Lucas
October	6	Beth Lambert
October	8	Miranda Bullard
October	9	Gail Klein Peggy Arnold
October	11	Adam Carvalho
October	15	Abigail Henry
October	17	Diane Barone
October	19	Pat Allen Tom Fenn
October	23	Ashley Civelli
October	24	Ruth Schultz
October	27	Madison Henry Jacob Naticha Lou Hayes
October	30	Margo Fenn



Wedding Anniversaries

October	18	Terri & Bill Collins Kim & Ed Connors
October	19	David & Kristin Stoeke
October	25	Marie & Bruce Phelps



Nursery Care

October	2	Caitlin Zygmunt and Eric Bailey
	9	Pat Allen
	16	Sharon Foxx
	23	Peggy Arnold
	30	Crystal DiYulio



Nursery Help: Our nursery is in 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.



All articles for the next newsletter must be received by Sharon by **October 19, 2011**. Send to psfoxx@att.net or leave in Secretary mailbox

