

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 November

- November 6: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; 1 Thessa-
 lonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
- November 13 Judges 4:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11;
 Matthew 25:14-30
- November 20 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Ephesians
 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46
- November 27 Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9;
 Mark 13:24-37

November 2011

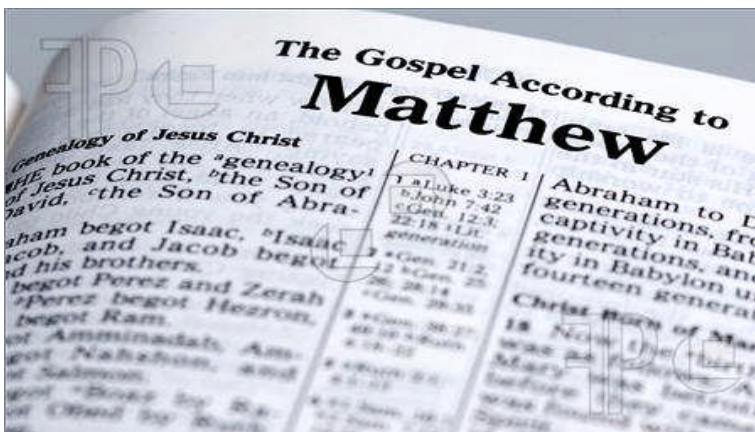
Special Days & Offerings

<i>November 5</i>	<i>Christmas Fair</i>
<i>November 6</i>	<i>Daylight Savings Time Ends—Fall Back</i>
<i>November 11</i>	<i>Veteran's Day</i>
<i>November 24</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>
<i>November 27</i>	<i>United Methodist Student Day</i>

Readers

- November 6 Ann Kramer
- November 13 Shelley Bailey
- November 20 Gail Klein
- November 27 Nick Peck

Veterans Day. Are you a veteran? On Thursday, November 10th at 2 PM Barkhamsted Elementary's student council will honor Veterans. If you are a veteran, know of one or are a relative of one, call the school at 860-379-2729 so they may recognize those who served our country. The students want to say "Thank you."



We're on the Web

www.pleasantvalleyumc.com

Fall Back—November 6th Daylight
 Savings Time Ends



FROM THE



PASTOR

Pastor's Message

Bolivia memories

I have many memories of my "Encounter With Christ" (title given to all mission outreach to Central and South America) mission experiences in Cochabamba Bolivia, but one stands out as life changing, i.e., "forever changed" (this is our promise to all who sign up for a Volunteers In Mission trip to Bolivia). It was 2005, my first trip. For some reason I signed up to lead a Vacation Bible School (VBS) experience at the Bethel Evangelical Methodist church. I was totally out of my realm. I have never taught any Sunday school in my church experience back home, and now I was supposed to lead with my partner Elaine? Elaine had no experience either! By the grace of God, we were able to convince a young, charismatic, fluent in Spanish, woman to interpret for us. I don't remember her name, but I'll forever remember her passion for mission. I'll call her Kara; she came from North Carolina and was staying at the Institute helping out as an interpreter. Also, by the grace of God, my wife, Diann offered to give us a hand, even though she had her own Day Care assignment to work on. Diann was great with the children. Together, Kara and Diann led the children in playground games and in arts and crafts exercises. I was pleased to no end, but feeling incompetent and of little use.

While the games were in full swing, I noticed a three year old boy who was crying and having no part in the activities. It was clear to me that he was angry and upset. He didn't want to play; he didn't want to be there at all. So far as not wanting to be there, that was a reflection of me, to be honest. I decided to offer him some comfort. At least I knew how to do that. So I picked him up and sat him on my lap. "There," I thought, "that's what he needed, just a little attention." Suddenly, I felt the unmistakable warmth spreading across my lap. "Oh no!" As I contemplated my next move, I began feeling another warmth but this time in my heart. I felt needed and loved. I carried the little "tough guy" inside and solicited some help from the day care women. He had no change of clothes and none available. He had a sweater on but nothing for his bottom. Now, he was not only upset but getting cold. So I wrapped my arms around him, as we sat on the pew, keeping him warm while the women went looking for a change of clothes. Finally, he fell asleep in my embrace.

Somehow I picture God doing the same for us when we are upset with anger and humiliation or any other hurt-felt emotion. God seems not to be concerned about getting soiled from holding us and offering a loving embrace.

Of course you don't have to go to Bolivia to have this sort of heart warming experience. Out of our own feelings of incompetence and worthlessness, God can work miracles, some small, some big. As followers of Jesus, we are called to offer the same kind of loving embrace to those who are angry and upset over circumstances that may be simply overwhelming. We may get a little soiled when we reach out to others. We may get angry and upset when we personally experience their pain. But when we remember how God so willingly embraces us with love and encouragement, without judgment, we may then find our hearts strangely warmed. We may then get a glimpse of God's joy in extending his perfect and compassionate love into the soiled lives of his beloved children on earth. This is the gift of God that we have been entrusted with, personally and as a church, to share in our community, in our families and in our world.

Forever Changed, Carl Franson

Christmas Fair
 Saturday, Nov. 5, 2011
 9:00 AM ~ 2:30 PM

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

Featuring
Crafts

Knit Room
Luncheon
Bake Sale
Children's Room
Attic Treasures

AGAIN THIS YEAR
PICTURES WITH SANTA
 10 AM ~ 2 PM
\$2

September Beanhole Bean Supper Profit: The September Beanhole Bean Supper was successful and made a profit of \$2,142.46. It takes many "hands" to make our Beanhole Bean Suppers a success. Thank you to all who participated.

UMW News



October UMW Meeting

The UMW met on Wednesday, October 5th in the church. Mary Lou led us in devotions and then Dan Abbot gave a video presentation on his trip to Mozambique, Africa. He gave us a look into the lives of the people in that region and told us about the place he stayed. It was very informative and well done. He said he had so many beans and rice that he doesn't care to have any more ever again. When the presentation was done there was a question and answer time and then we all went into Fellowship Hall for some delicious treats. We did not have a formal business meeting.

For our November meeting our theme will be Thanksgiving and everyone is asked to bring a non perishable item for the food bank such as cans of tuna fish, soup, cereal, juices, spaghetti sauce, etc. If you need more information as to what is needed, please speak to Marie.

We are looking forward to our annual Christmas fair, which will be November 5th, from 9am to 2:30 pm. There are flyers on the Bessie Table. Please take a couple and put them in places where there are bulletin boards for advertising. This is our only fund raiser and we would like to make it very successful. A lot of hard work has gone into the making of the crafts and knitted items. Please help us by baking for our bake table and also helping out the day of the fair. We are going to have a luncheon, pictures with Santa who is looking for more children to come, a children's room where children can make things while their parent shops, and an Attic Treasures room. If you have things you would like to donate, please bring them in and put them in the carpeted classroom. We are looking for used items that are in excellent shape. We hope you can help by attending and also by spreading the word.

Remember, the UMW is open to all the women of the church. We would love to see some new faces. Also, if anyone has ideas for programs they would like to see, please speak to Margo or Pat.

May the PEACE of Christ be with you all,
Pat Allen
UMW Vice-president

P.S. FYI. If you're thinking about having Dan over to your house for a meal, remember, please —NO BEANS & RICE.

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 to the right to help you make a connection.

Fire Wood Needed: It does not appear that there is enough wood left for next year's Beanhole fires. If you have trees down from storm damage, etc. would you be willing to donate to the church? If we can get free wood, it would certainly be helpful.

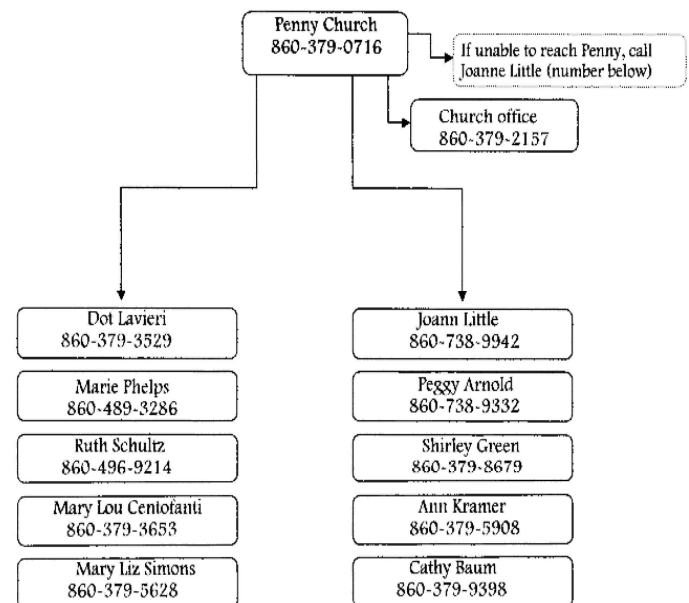
Another way that prayers can be offered is by use of our **Prayer Board**, which is located in the Narthex of the church. You'll find the board hanging on the wall just by the double doors to the hallway. Cards, on the small table below, are available to be completed and hung on the board. Pudge Millahn 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



COM Article for November 2011 Link

Council on Ministries met on October 11th. Pastor Carl spoke about the recent Crop Walk in Lime Rock and felt that it went quite well, raising approximately \$16,000 in pledges. He has decided to retire from the Walk coordinator position. Carl also spoke about the upcoming Charge Conferences which will be taking place throughout the conference during the fall. Because of the illness of Ken Kieffer, DS, the moderator positions will be taken by volunteer clergypersons; Carl will moderate at the North Canton UMC in December, the Watertown UMC in January, and at the Canaan UMC at some point. The Charge Conference for PVUMC is scheduled for Monday, January 2nd, 2012. Discussion continued about the need for a Congregational Nurture committee and the first steps toward that will be the attendance books that will be circulated during the worship service each week. The purpose of this record will be to notice when someone in the congregation has been missing for awhile, and the need for the committee to touch base with them to be sure everyone is well, and offer help if needed.

The Worship Committee had met and reported their discussions regarding services for Laity Sunday, and All Saints' Day. A reminder about holding communion at the rail in November was offered. Sunday, November 27th is United Methodist Student Day and a special collection will be taken. Carl was asked if the traditional Thanksgiving Eve service will be held again this year at the Washington Hill church, and he believes that is so, with more information coming.

The UMW did not hold a regular meeting in October, rather they hosted an evening for the entire congregation with Dan Abbott as the speaker to share his mission experiences in Africa over the past summer months. There were about 30 people in attendance to hear him speak and see his photos. We thank Dan for sharing his time with us and helping us see the hand of God in places far away.

The Youth Group will begin their meetings, and coordinating Operation Christmas Child as their first service project. Mindy has a long list of activities for future meetings and she encourages all youth from grade 6 and above to come join in the fun.

The Stewardship Committee has begun their planning meetings for the upcoming Stewardship Campaign which begins at the end of October. In addition they have initiated 'Get To Know Your Congregation Better' dinners, planned for November 12th. They are asking for families willing to host a dinner in their homes; a sign-up sheet is on the Bessie Table.

It was reported that the Float Fest took place on October 2nd and eight people had a great time at Burr Pond. Hopefully, plans can be made earlier next summer so that we can get a few of these events in before the cool weather returns.

The Pumpkin Patch will again take place later in October with the kindergarten and first grade classes from Barkhamsted School coming to the church for their field trip event. Margo Fenn and Pat Allen, along with their helpers, will welcome the students to hear stories, enjoy a healthy snack, and pick a pumpkin from our "patch" before they head back across the playground to the school. This event is enjoyed each year by not only the students, but the teachers, and the Pumpkin Patch 'staff' as well.

Cathy and John Baum are planning to host another Bible study just prior to the Advent Study which will begin later in November. Stay tuned for more details as the time grows closer for each of these courses.

Joann Little shared that the Parish Nurses program hosted a mini Blood Pressure clinic one Sunday after church in September. While they only had one customer, Joann felt it was significant as that person was found to have an issue that resulted in a doctor's visit. They will be offering similar events in the future, but if anyone has a need for assistance, or advice on medical issues, Joann and Poochie are ready and willing to help.

Council on Ministries will meet again on Tuesday, November 8th at 7:00 PM in the Parish House. Please consider coming to this meeting and sharing your ideas, suggestions, hopes, and prayers for our church and the direction of its ministries as we move toward the close of 2011 and into the future of 2012.



Got an empty shoebox lying around? Why not fill it with gifts that will make a needy child somewhere in the world smile. That is the goal of [Operation Christmas Child](#). Since 1993, more than 86 million shoe box gifts have been delivered to children in more than 130 countries. Operation Christmas Child, asks participants to pack toys, school supplies, toiletries, hard candy and photographs into shoeboxes. These donations are then sent to children in more than 100 countries including Haiti, Panama and the Philippines. Founded on evangelical Christian values, Operation Christmas Child strives to meet the spiritual and physical needs of underprivileged children on an international level. Many of the children who receive a shoe box are being given the first gift they have ever received. Mindy Henry will be filling shoeboxes with the help of the Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and the church youth . All boxes need to be filled by November 13th.

Helpers in November

Greeters

November 6	Shelly Ritchie & Barney Connors
13	The Green Family
20	The deRoode Family
27	The Giantonio Family

Sanctuary Cleaning

November 6	Klein
13	Arnold
20	Millahn
27	Baums

Coffee Hour

November 6	Janet Lee, Judy McKay, Becky Bridges
13	Wendy deRoode, Shelley Ritchie, Kim Connors
20	Gail Klein, Mary Liz Simons, Dot Lavieri
27	Janet LaGrange, Janet Lucas, Suzanne Gerber-Hurley

Counters

November 6	Emil Klein & Mary Liz Simons
13	John Baum & Ted Millahn
20	Becky Bridges & Steve Bailey
27	Ann Kramer & Gail Klein

Ushers

November 6	Dawn & Wayne Renfrew
13	Gene & Wendy deRoode
20	Barbara & Steve Bailey
27	Bill & Becky Bridges

Acolytes

November 6	Victoria deRoode
13	Nathan Benham
20	Samantha Benham
27	Matthew Civelli

Birthdays

November 2	Mary Lou Centofanti Olivia Naticha
November 4	Mary Liz Simons
November 6	Joyce Sperow Kristin O'Brien
November 13	Wayne Renfrew
November 14	Nick Church
November 15	Andy Fenn
November 20	Allan Fenner
November 23	Ryan Phelps
November 26	Mindy Henry
November 29	Laurie Fenner



Wedding Anniversaries

November 1	Jennie & Nick Peck
November 8	Mari & Jeff Forman



Nursery Care

November 6	Barbara Bailey
13	Karen Dietz
20	Caitlin Zygmunt & Eric Bailey
27	Pat Allen

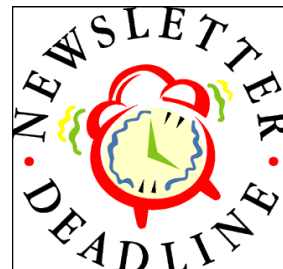
Nursery Help: Our nursery is in need of Caregivers and Assistants to be placed on the rotation schedule. To be in compliance with Safe Sanctuary guidelines, we need two people in Nursery. Anyone utilizing the nursery is expected to contribute to the schedule. Please contact Peggy (860-738-



Happy Thanksgiving



Thanks for your donations to the furnace fund: The new furnace in the Parish house has been installed and working great. We want to thank all for your generous donations. The response was so well received that enough monies were received to install the new furnace plus take care of other issues that need to be addressed



All articles for the next newsletter must be received by Sharon by November 16th. Send to psfoxx@att.net or leave in Secretary mailbox