

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  
December*

**December 2011**

December 4: Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-15a;  
Mark 1:1-8

December 11: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalo-  
nians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 18: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans  
16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

December 24: Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14;  
Luke 2:1-20

December 25: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-4  
(5-12); John 1:1-14

## *Special Days & Offerings*

*December 4 Second Sunday of Advent  
December 11 Third Sunday of Advent  
Decoration of Tree  
December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24 Candlelight Service at 5:00 PM  
December 25 Christmas Day  
December 31 New Year's Eve*

We're on the Web

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



December 3 — Christ-  
mas Fair

December 10 — Youth  
Babysitting Service —

11—4PM

December 11—Tree Decorating

December 18—Christmas Pageant

**CHRIST  
THE SAVIOR  
is BORN!**

## Readers

- December 4: Jacque Williams
- December 11: Paul Foxx
- December 18: Nick Peck
- December 25: Emil Klein

FROM THE



PASTOR

“When will the power be restored? When will we be able to flush our toilets without melting snow, when, when, when?” I kept asking the same questions over and over again. Our lives had been turned upside down over the loss of electricity. Lucky for us, we had a fire going in the wood stove and Diann was able to cook on the gas stove. Having no electricity, all the things we normally did, without a thought, had suddenly come to a screeching halt. Every day we listened to our local radio station on my old battery powered transistor radio. This was our only link to our little corner of the world. All the things I wanted to do became impossible. I kept looking at all the remotes and wanting to click on something, anything, but obviously I knew that would be futile. The same was true for my 9 year old grandson, Asa. He really missed multitasking with all of his electronic gadgets: laptop computer, X-Box, his dad’s I-phone and a number of other devices I am unable to name. I often wonder if we have really lost him to the realm of cyberspace.

On one of those evenings we were all sitting in the living room facing one another, barely able to make out faces, candles burning, fire crackling, just talking. Asa was sitting there observing the scene when he blurted out: “This is pretty neat! We are family; all of us just hanging out (or something like that).” It’s a good thing that it was pretty dark so no one could see the tear running down my cheek. He really does value being a family member.

This, I thought, is what it is all about. What’s the problem with no power? What’s the problem with no face book, no computer, no e-mails, no flushing toilets, no TV, no lights and all that? So what, as long as you have your loved ones. I think of all of our men and women in the armed forces. Many of them are serving in places that are devoid of all the comforts that I take for granted. They are not able to “hang out” with their loved ones in the safety and comfort of their homes. I worry about their futures. Will they return? Will they be able to find their lives again?

Will they be able to overcome the memories of war? If anyone deserves a lifetime pension, it is our war veterans.

By the time you read this message, Thanksgiving 2011 will be behind us, and now Christians all over the world are anticipating the coming of Christmas Day. This is the season of Advent, the four weeks preceding Christmas. The promise of Advent is that Christ, our Savior, will return and restore all things in heaven and on earth according to God’s vision and plan. The promise of Advent is that there will come a time when all the families on earth will be able

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to live without fear of hunger and the threat of war. When Christ returns, “He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4) Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

Please join us for a study of Advent scriptures the next four Sundays, following worship at 11:15 – 12:15

Pastor Carl



**Prayer Shawls:** Prayer Shawls can offer comfort during times of joy or sorrow, and our church has a collection of shawls. If you know of someone who could use the comfort of a Prayer Shawl, contact Pat Allen or a member of the United Methodist Women.



**Christmas Pageant:**

The youth will perform a Christmas pageant on December 18th during worship service. They will perform a play about the birth of Christ. If you’d like to participate in this fun, entertaining event, please contact Mindy Henry at 860-738-7737 or mhery7737@gmail.com. We will need youth as well as adults to help with the youngsters and help with props, costumes, etc. It’ll be a wonderful event as we have gifted kids.

**Our Christmas Elves will help you shop for the holidays.**

On Saturday, December 10th the youth group will offer their babysitting services so Mom & Dad can Christmas shop. From 11 am to 4 pm on Saturday they’ll be available so parents can get their shopping out of the way. Snow date will be December 17th if we need it. We ask that all children bring a bag lunch to prevent allergy issues. We will provide snacks and drinks. The youth will provide activities for children of all ages. We are looking for youth to help so please pass the word. If possible we would like families to pre-register so that we can make sure that we have enough help. All donations will go to the youth groups mission work. Please contact Mindy Henry to register or if you can help, [mhenry7737@gmail.com](mailto:mhenry7737@gmail.com) or 860-738-7737.





## November UMW News UMW News

The UMW is looking forward to their annual Christmas Fair on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ladies have been working hard to complete last minute craft or knit items, or plan what they will donate for the Bake Sale table. Items for Attic Treasures have been coming in and are being priced ready for display. Storm Alfred in late October caused the delay of the Fair by a couple of weeks, but we're ready to go now. Please be sure to mark your calendars and come and support our efforts. All money raised will be used toward our mission donations and the various organizations to which we annually provide support.

The week after the Fair, on Wednesday December 7<sup>th</sup>, we will again gather for our regular monthly meeting. This time we'll celebrate Christmas through reading the age old story of the coming of the Christ Child, enjoy various nativity displays, share fun and fellowship with games and, of course, refreshments. Any woman of the church is welcome to attend and share this joyous time with us. If you have an unusual, interesting, or simply beautiful Nativity set, please bring it to share with everyone.

At this meeting we also will be collecting new towels to be given to Susan B. Anthony. In addition, non-perishable food items will be collected for the Community Food Bank instead of bringing grab bag gifts for each other. What better way to start the Christmas season than by sharing what we have in abundance with those less fortunate.

As the year draws to a close, we want to thank all those in the congregation who have so faithfully and generously supported the UMW events. Through your generosity, we are able to help many organizations in our community and beyond.

May the peace of the Lord be with you and your families throughout this holiday season and the New Year.

Shalom, Margo Fenn



### Christmas Remembrances

Memorialize or honor a loved one this Christmas by contributing to the purchase of poinsettias to adorn the sanctuary.

Contributions must be received by **December 4<sup>th</sup>** in order for the names of those honored to appear in the church bulletin.

For more information, contact Pat Allen at 379-2403



## CHRISTMAS FAIR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2011



9:00 AM ~ 2:30 PM

### Again this year

Pictures with Santa

10 AM-2

PM

\$2



### Featuring

Crafts Knit Room

Luncheon Bake Sale

Children's Room Attic Treasures



### Advent Bible Study

Please join us for a study of Advent scriptures the next four Sundays, following worship at 11:15 -



### White Gifts and Mitten Tree



During Advent, as we have for many years, PVUMC will collect White Gifts as well as hats, scarves, mittens and gloves for the Mitten Tree in the Narthex. White Gifts, wrapped in white tissue paper, will be given to residents at Laurel Hill

Healthcare in Winsted. Gift ideas can be found on the Bessie Table. The items from the Mitten Tree will be given to The Salvation Army in Winsted. The tree will be set up in the Narthex early in Advent and all donations will be delivered to their respective sites on the Sunday before Christmas. Please consider sharing your gifts with those in need this year.



Join us on December 11th when the Sunday School children will trim the Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary with decorations that they have made.



## COM Article for December 2011 Link

Council on Ministries met on November 8<sup>th</sup>. There was much discussion about the recent October snow storm, about the damage that occurred, about the loss of power and phone service, and the disaster that resulted at the Bean Hole Bean Supper. It was noted that most of the food was used by the Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Department at their emergency shelter. It provided a good meal or two for about 40 families in the community.

The Worship Committee spoke about the success of Laity Sunday and their appreciation for all the volunteers from the congregation who made the service memorable.

Another result of the storm was that the UMW has had to postpone their annual Christmas Fair to December 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be many handcrafted items, baked goods, hand knit and crocheted items, mystery finds in Attic Treasures, and many delicious luncheon selections to enjoy. And Santa will be here to have a picture taken with the children.

The Youth Group will meet on November 20<sup>th</sup> to make desserts for the food bank's Thanksgiving baskets. Also, the Youth Group is planning to host a babysitting day where parents can safely leave their children for a few hours in order to shop or accomplish other errands. Their first such event is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 4 PM. The children will bring their own lunches, in order to avoid any food allergy issues, but snacks will be provided. There will be adult supervision throughout the day and the youth will be kept busy keeping the children occupied and entertained. For this service, parents can make a donation that will be gratefully accepted. The Youth Group is also sponsoring the Operation Christmas Child project, and filled shoeboxes should be returned to the church no later than Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Stewardship Committee has had to postpone their planned congregational dinners until sometime later in the year. It's surprising how much impact this unexpected fall snow storm had, but plans will continue to set another date. We are also reminded that Renewal Sunday is planned for November 20<sup>th</sup>; the congregation is asked to return their completed pledge cards at this time.

There is a Bible Study being offered for a short few weeks just prior to Advent. John and Cathy Baum will host this short course. Following that, an Advent Bible Study will be planned to begin on the first Sunday in Advent, November 27<sup>th</sup> and continue through the Christmas season.

Lay Leadership has been meeting and working on filling the positions that will be opening for the coming year. Please consider prayerfully when you are asked to serve on a committee. It is important that all the members of the church support its goals and ministries in order to make us a strong and vital part of the body of Christ.

Council on Ministries will meet again on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 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.



*I can know all about bread. I can have bread in the kitchen and on the table. I can serve bread to others. But if I don't eat it for myself I will die. Jesus is the bread of life.*



**Christmas Caroling:** "Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord." We are looking forward to caroling to as many people as possible this December. A date and time has yet to be set, but the youth have said they would lift their lovely voices with us. Please contact the office for more information as the date draws nearer.



## Helpers This Month



## Birthdays

### Greeters

12/4 Kristin Stoeke & Family  
 12/11 Tisha Tubman  
 12/18 Margo Fenn  
 12/25 Joann Little

### Sanctuary Cleaning

12/4 Carvalho  
 12/11 Steve Bailey  
 12/18 Civelli  
 12/25 Lucas

### Coffee Hour

12/4 **Sharon Foxx**, Shirley Green,  
 Peggy Arnold  
 12/11 **Jennie Peck**, Dawn Renfrew,  
 Tisha Tubman  
 12/18 **Ann Kramer**, Betty Vasco,  
 Karen Carvalho  
 12/25 Christmas Day—Hosted by  
 Volunteers

### Counters

12/4 Mary Liz Simons & Mary Lou  
 Centofanti  
 12/11 Emil Klein & John Baum  
 12/18 Steve Bailey & Ann Kramer  
 12/25 Ted Millahn & Becky Bridges

### Ushers

12/4 Ann Kramer & Shirley Green  
 12/11 Sharon & Paul Foxx  
 12/18 Dawn & Wayne Renfrew  
 12/25 Gene & Wendy deRoode

### Acolyte

12/4 Ashley Civelli  
 12/11 Thomas Henry  
 12/18 Abby Henry  
 12/25 Austin Stoeke

12/4 **Kim Connors**  
**Skylar Zygmunt**  
 12/5 **Lawrence Lambert**  
 12/8 **Michael Derochick**  
 12/9 **Shaylah deRoode**  
 12/12 **Helen Tengelsen**  
 12/13 **Leanna O'Brien**  
 12/16 **Judy Barone**  
 12/20 **Erick Bailey**  
 12/26 **Mark Lambert**



December Wedding Anniversaries

12/28 **Laurie & Allan Fenner**



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Thanks to Wilma Melendez (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-24-2010  
 THIS IS LIKE TOTALLY THE COOLEST THING  
 THAT HAS EVEN HAPPENED IN THIS STABLE!

### Nursery Care

12/4 Sharon Foxx  
 12/11 Peggy Arnold  
 12/18 Crystal Diyulio  
 12/25 Barbara Bailey or Parents



Please have all articles for the  
 January newsletter to Sharon by  
 December 17, 2011. Send to  
 psfoxx@att.net or leave in Secre-  
 tary mailbox