

January Link

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8: 38-39 NRSV

Well, my brothers and sisters, we are separated, yet once again. As most of you know, the church leaders have opted to close the sanctuary for at least the month of January in response to the surge of Covid-19 infections. As I write this the positivity rate is over 20 - the highest in a long time. I cannot even express how much I miss worshiping in the sanctuary with you.

The good news is that it seems when the virus breaks through to a vaccinated person the ensuing illness is less invasive. I urge you all to protect yourself and others by getting vaccinations and boosters when you are able. You and those who you love need to be safe.

We are not certain when we will be able to open the church to worship together at this point: hopefully by the end of the month. I am so grateful for the talented worship team, who jumped in and adjusted to bring worship on line in what seemed like an instant. Bless you all- you are talented, faithful and inspiring.

And here is the best news- reread the scripture from Romans- we could edit it and add in Covid to the list of disasters that can never separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. When we are together in person or on line, on every day and not just Sunday, the abiding love of God remains steadfast. We may be isolated, but we are never alone.

The last words of John Wesley were full of the assurance of a man who walked with God. He said, "The best of all is, God is with us!" If you find yourself feeling alone, frustrated, hopeless in this time, shout out those words.

The best of all is, God is with us!

Blessings,

Pastor Barbara

I will be on vacation from January 17th to the 23rd. I am always available by phone and encourage you to call if you if you feel the need. Jay Andrews, a lay servant from Torrington UMC, will be preaching on January 23rd. Please support his ministry on line.

Pastor Barbara

Thank you all for your generous Christmas gift and for the many gifts of baked sweets. Our first few months together has been a joy and I look forward to ministry here at PVUMC in the coming months. Bless you all!

Pastor Barbara

Dear Congregation,

I just wanted to say thank you to you all for the generous Christmas gift. I really love playing music for this church and it is very, very nice that you thought of me to do this. I always try my best to lift your spirits with music! I am truly grateful to be a part of this church family.

Blessings to you all, David

*At the sound of the tolling midnight bell
a brand new year will begin.*

*Let's raise our hopes in a confident toast,
to the promise it ushers in.*

*May your battles be few, your pleasures many,
your wishes and dreams fulfilled.*

*May your confidence stand in the face of loss
and give you the strength to rebuild.*

*May peace of heart fill all your days
may serenity grace your soul.*

*May tranquil moments bless your life
and keep your spirit whole.*

unknown

Gospels for January

January 2: Matthew 2:1-12
 January 9: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
 January 16: John 2:1-11
 January 23: Luke 4:14-21
 January 30: Luke 4:21-30

January Schedule

****We are holding back on the schedules until we know more about when and how services will resume in person. However, if you'd like to do something please reach out to Pastor Barbara at barb_drew@hotmail.com**

January 2 January 9 January 16 January 23 January 30	<u>Nursery Care</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>	<u>Ushers</u> Sandy Slemmer & Janet LaGrange Barbara Sherwin & Shirley Green Bonnie & Darlene Slater Dawn Renfrew & Shelley Bailey Steve Shaw & Judy McKay
January 2 January 9 January 16 January 23 January 30	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Lectors</u> John Baum Cathy Baum Karen Dietz Suzanne Gerber Janet LaGrange	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
January 2 January 9 January 16 January 23 January 30	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Children's Message</u>	
January 2 January 9 January 16 January 23 January 30	<u>Lector Readings</u>		

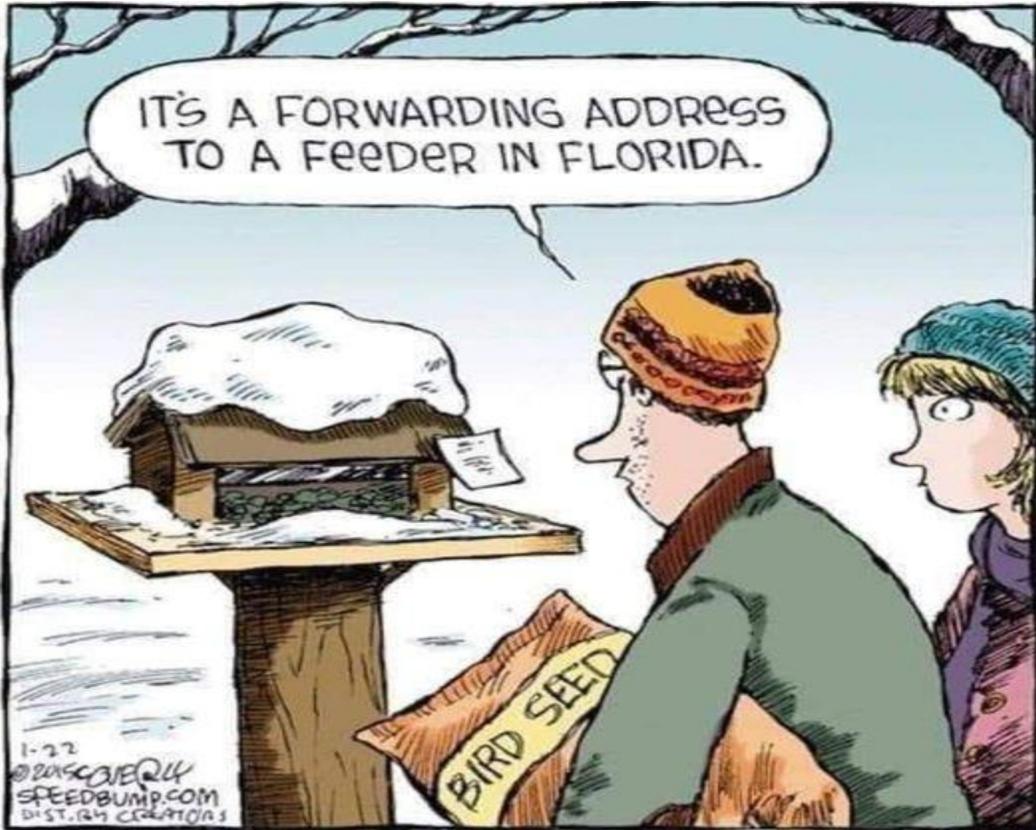
****Because of the COVID-19 virus all meetings and Church Schedules are tentative. Please call or email me to confirm.**

January

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THUS.	FRI.	SAT.
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2 10:00AM On-line Worship Service	3	4 7:00PM Trustees Meeting 8:00PM AA	5	6 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	7	8
9 10:00AM On-line Worship Service	10	11 7:00PM Admin./Finance Meeting 8:00PM AA	12	13 6:45PM AA	14	15
16 10:00AM On-line Worship Service	17 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	18 8:00PM AA	19	20 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	21	22
23 10:00AM On-line Worship Service	24	25 8:00PM AA	26	27 6:45PM AA	28	29
30 10:00AM On-line Worship Service	31 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank					



Church Humor:



A collector of rare books ran into an old friend who told him he had just thrown away an old Bible that he found in a dusty, old box. He happened to mention that Guten-somebody-or-other had printed it. "Not Gutenberg?" gasped the collector.

"Yes, that was it!"

"Do you know what you have done? You've thrown away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold at auction for half a million dollars!"

"Oh, I don't think this book would have been worth anywhere close to that," replied his friend. "It was scribbled all over in the margins by some guy named Martin Luther."

A young woman brought her fiance home to meet her parents. After dinner, her father asked the young man into his study for a chat.

"So, what are your plans?", the father said.

"I'm a theology scholar," the young man replied.

"Admirable," the father said, "but what will you do to provide a nice home for my daughter?"

"I will study and God will provide," the young man explained.

"And how will you afford to raise children?", the father asked.

"God will provide.", said the young man.

The men left the study and the mother asked her husband, "How did it go?"

"Very well; I like him. He has no money or employment plans," the father said. "But on the other hand, he thinks I'm God."

The poor country pastor was livid when he confronted his wife with the receipt for a \$250 dress she had bought. "How could you do this!" he exclaimed. "I don't know," she wailed, "I was standing in the store looking at the dress. Then I found myself trying it on. It was like the Devil was whispering to me, 'Gee, you look great in that dress. You should buy it.'" "Well," the pastor persisted, "You know how to deal with him! Just tell him, "Get behind me, Satan!" "I did," replied his wife, "but then he said "It looks great from back here, too!"

January Announcements

Storm Warnings

As we approach winter, please remember to watch WFSB, channel 3 for any cancellations of meetings or worship due to winter weather. Its 90 degrees today, so it's difficult to imagine snow, but winter will come!

Covid Protocols

Because of the high Covid positivity rate the Church is closed. Services can be viewed on-line.

Tithes:

You can still make your Tithe offerings by either mailing your check to the church at P.O. Box 181, Pleasant Valley, CT 06063 or by going on-line to EasyTithe: <https://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/pvumc>

For those who need new offering envelopes for 2022, they can be picked up in the office.

Children's Message

If you would like to volunteer to give a Children message during worship, or if you would like to volunteer to be a liturgist (Reader) let Pastor Barbara know.

Prayer Gathering

Cancelled for the month of January

Church office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 9:00AM to Noon. If there is a Monday holiday, office hours for that week will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00AM to Noon.

Pastor Barbara will be in the office Monday and Tuesday from 9:00AM to Noon, or by appointment.

Church contact info:

Visit us online at: pleasantvalleyumc.com

Church Office: 860-379-2157

Church Kitchen and Food Bank: 860-379-0346

Church email address: pvumc181@gmail.com

Pastor Barbara's email: barb_drew@hotmail.com

Pastor Barbara's phone number: 203-623-3754