

April Link

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord” John 20: 18

A blessed Easter to you all. When we hear the words of Easter, the words uttered by Mary to the disciples, hope and faith, once more burns in our hearts. He is Risen. And we listen to his proclamation, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.”

This is the truth of what we proclaim as disciples of Christ, as members of His church. This is what we are taught and what we corporately believe. How do we prove this to be true?

Well, ultimately the resurrection is to be experienced not proven. The most convincing evidence of the Resurrection of Christ is the transformation of the people who know Jesus and believe in Him.

And, I believe, the proof is in the transformation of those who follow and believe in him, today. How has your life, your understanding of the world around you, your outlook, and your actions changed since you have known the Risen Lord?

The only proof of Easter I will ever need is memory. I remember what my life was like before I met the living Christ and I know what my life is now, as I share it with Him. The risen Jesus Christ has made all the difference.

Knowing Christ is about our relationship with Him, our love for Him and the love we receive from Him. It's not enough to study the story of Jesus as we study the life of any other great historical figure. It may be that we begin that way, but we must end by meeting him. Jesus is not a memory; he is a presence.

And Easter is not a mere remembrance but a living action today. Today he comes out of the grave to be alive and with us here. We can take him by the hand and he'll go home with us. And when we grieve and when we celebrate and rejoice, he is with us. He comes today, and everyday into our hearts to share with us the joy, the encouragement and the forgiveness and transformation of Easter.

In the Love of the Risen Christ,
Pastor Barbara

PLEASANT VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WOMEN'S GROUP "THE MARTHA AND MARY'S"

INVITES YOU !!!

MAY 17 AND 18, 2024

JOIN US FOR A RELAXING WOMEN'S GET AWAY AT BEAUTIFUL TRINITA
RETREAT CENTER IN NEW HARTFORD, CT. 595 TOWN HILL ROAD

TIMES ARE: FRIDAY, 5PM-9PM, PIZZA DINNER

SATURDAY, 8AM TO 8PM, BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER

ACTIVITIES WILL BE PRAYER, MUSIC, GAMES, STUDY, NATURE WALKS,
FREE TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP AND REFLECTION, AND MORE.

GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT OF TIME WITH OUR GOD WHILE GROWING
YOUR FAITH AND MAKING NEW FRIENDS.

COST IS \$90. (SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE)

CONTACT: PASTOR BARBARA SCHAFFER AT 203-623-3754 OR

CHURCH OFFICE AT 860-379-2157

MAKE YOUR NON-REFUNDABLE CHECK TO PLEASANT VALLEY UMC

BY MAY 1, 2024

Keeping Our Memories (Scrapbooking) by Carolyn Day

It is important to ourselves and our families to preserve our stories through photos and words.



I have been creating memory albums since 1996. I have had a request to share my knowledge by hosting a bi-monthly gathering at church.

We will meet on alternate Wednesdays beginning April 10th. We will meet from 10:00AM and 2:30PM – breaking for lunch at noon. (BYOL).

If you are interested, or have any questions, please contact me at 860-309-1050 or email me at carolyndaycm2003@yahoo.com



It has been several years since there has been a memorial garden committee, and we would like to establish a new group. The committee would oversee the Maintenance and management of the garden. If you have a green thumb, a love for our memorial garden and a little bit of time, let the office know.

On Monday, April 29, 2024 at 7 p.m. Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church will host a presentation on the current opioid crisis. In the past few months our local communities have seen an increase in overdoses in the area, and too many friends and families are losing loved ones to addiction. Sarah Toomey, Community Outreach & Recovery Navigator at Greenwoods Counseling & Referrals, Inc., will be presenting on the Opioid Pandemic that this country is faced with. Greenwoods Counseling & Referral has become a leader in Litchfield County providing education and services to those struggling with or affected by addiction. Sarah will be presenting an overview of the services Greenwoods provides. In addition, she will present on: What are opioids? Give a brief history of the opioid epidemic, what is happening in our county (trends in mental health and addiction), as well as how to access Narcan, support services in our community. There will be time for questions as well as handouts and contact information for follow-up services if needed. Anyone from the community is welcome to attend.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We need volunteers to sign up for coffee hour and cleaning. We know that schedules sometimes don't allow you to sign up in advance, but if you could sign up a month in advance that would help us immensely. Thank you.

The Mary & Martha Women's Group is hosting a Soup & Sandwich "Love Luncheon" following worship service on April 21st. We will be celebrating the birthdays of the whole congregation! There will be 12 different birthday cakes, one for each Birthday Month! Find your birthday month table! Enjoy learning if anyone at your table shares your actual birthday!! As you locate your table, take note of the other months' cakes as you go! In the case of small children or people who require assistance, please sit at their birthday table with them. Otherwise, we encourage people to split up by birthdays for seating. Sign-up sheets for soup & sandwich makers & cake bakers will be out the first week of April. An offering basket will be passed during the lunch to benefit "Save the Children" as STC helps the children of the Gaza strip. We hope you will join the fun and help us raise a few dollars for Save the Children. We get to have the birthday fun and children of the Gaza strip receive the "present"!



Love Luncheon

Sunday, April 21

following worship

Enjoy a Soup & Sandwich Lunch plus Cake!

Find your birthday month table

and celebrate your birthday!

Help us celebrate Everyone's birthday!

Join Us for Festive Fun!

12 months of Birthdays with

12 Different Cakes!



An offering basket will be passed during the luncheon for "Save the Children" for their work on behalf of children in war torn Gaza strip.

Sign up lists will be out in early April for sandwich, soup & cake bakers.

Gospels for April

April 7: John 20:19-31
 April 14: Luke 24:36b-48
 April 21: John 10:11-18
 April 28: John 15:1-8

April Schedule

April 7 April 14 April 21 April 28	<u>Cleaners</u> Janet & Jay LaGrange Janet & Jay LaGrange Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed	<u>Nursery Care</u>	<u>Ushers</u> Steven Shaw & Judy McKay Steve & Barb Bailey Sandy Slemmer & Janet LaGrange Barbara Sherwin & Shirley Green
April 7 April 14 April 21 April 28	<u>Greeters</u> John Lundy & Jay LaGrange John Lundy & Jay LaGrange John Lundy & Jay LaGrange John Lundy & Jay LaGrange	<u>Lectors</u> Janet LaGrange Suzanne Gerber Tom Lucas Kathy Loomis	<u>Coffee Hour</u> Sandy Taylor Volunteers Needed Love Luncheon Dan Hurley & Judy McKay
April 7 April 14 April 21 April 28	<u>Counters</u> Wayne Roberts & Barb Bailey Barbara Sherwin & Steve Bailey Barbara Bailey & John Lundy Steve Bailey & Wayne Roberts	<u>Children's Message</u>	

Pastor Barbara will be on vacation from April 22nd through April 28th. She will be back in the office on Monday, April 29th.

Kathy Loomis will do the Sunday Service on April 28th.

April

<u>SUN.</u>	<u>MON.</u>	<u>TUES.</u>	<u>WED.</u>	<u>THUS.</u>	<u>FRI.</u>	<u>SAT.</u>
	1 	2 10:00AM Prayer Group	3	4	5	6
7 10:00AM Worship Service with Holy Communion	8 7:00PM Trustees Meeting 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	9 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	10 10:00AM-2:30PM Scrapbooking with Carolyn Day	11 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	12	13
14 10:00AM Worship Service	15	16 10:00AM Prayer Group 7:00PM SPRC Meeting 8:00PM AA	17	18 6:45PM AA	19	20
21 10:00AM Worship Service 11:30AM Mary & Martha's Meeting	22 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	23 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	24 10:00AM-2:30PM Scrapbooking with Carolyn Day	25 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	26	27
28 10:00AM Worship Service	29 7:00pm Opioid/Narcan Seminar	30 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA				



April Announcements

If you know of someone who is not getting the Link but would like to, please contact Re with their information and email address so they can be added to the list. If they don't have access to emails, just give us their mailing address and we will mail it out to them. We will also leave a few copies on the Besse table.

If you, or someone you know, is in the hospital in need of a visit please call either Pastor Barbara or the Church office to schedule a visit. Because of privacy laws, hospitals can no longer give out this information.

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 9:30AM to 1:00PM, 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

