

The Link

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church
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Address Service Requested

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays 9:30 AM

Sunday School Offered Every
Sunday!

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Wednesday - Friday
1:00 - 4:00 PM

May 2010

*Lectionary
Readings*

*SUNDAYS IN
MAY*

*Special Days &
Offerings*

May 2, 2010: Acts 11:1-18; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 9, 2010: Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29

May 16, 2010: Acts 16:16-34; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

May 23, 2010: Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17

May 30, 2010: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

May 9: Mother's Day

Readers

May 2, 2010:
Paul Foxx

May 9, 2010:
Ann Kramer

May 16, 2010:
Shelley Bailey

May 23, 2010:
Youth

May 30, 2010:
Jacque Williams

Men's Bible Study

Meets Sundays at 8:30 AM
to discuss lectionary passages.



*Thy father
and thy mother
shall be glad,
and she that
bare thee
shall rejoice.
Proverbs 23:25*



Message from the Pastor

On Easter Sunday I remember asking, "Is my family the only dysfunctional family?" I do not remember why I asked that question, but I am asking that question again. It seems no matter who I talk to, concerning families, I

come away with more stories that remind me of the many stories we find in the Bible. All of us have stories, stories about brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, mothers and fathers, children and grand children, etc. Stories, about relationships and how they work and do not work, are all part of this thing that is common to all families and all cultures, around the world.

We remember Abraham and Sarah and their family story. You might say they were a "blended" family. Abraham fathered a child, Ishmael, by their slave woman, Hagar, when it was thought by Sarah that she would never have a child by Abraham. Then Sarah did have a child, Isaac, by Abraham, a child that was promised by God. Sarah could not deal with this arrangement, for long, when she saw how Hagar "played" with newly weaned Isaac. This must have caused Sarah to have envious feelings toward Hagar, and she demanded that Abraham send them away: "Cast out this women with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac" (Genesis 21:8-14). Then we have stories about Isaac and Rebekah and the family tension that existed because Jacob was favored over Esau, by Rebekah, while Esau was favored by Isaac. (see Gen. 25-33) Let's face it. This family was, by any definition, dysfunctional.

Yet, these early stories of God's redeeming love for messed up families lives on as examples for us today. They are not merely examples; they are closer to our own experience than we may like to admit. One would think that people of the "Way" would have it all figured out by now.

Even Jesus' family gave appearances of dysfunction. Joseph was faced with the embarrassment of Mary's pregnancy without them being married: "...Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit'" (Matthew 1:19-20). Imagine what the neighbors were saying, not to mention what their own family members were saying. Later, when Jesus was in the midst of His ministry, His own brothers did not believe in Him (John 7:5). He was not understood. We are not understood by our own brothers and sisters.

You see, each family member makes up a story about what happened, e.g., "Dad always loved you more than me... You always got what you wanted; I never got anything." And so it goes. What happened, happened, but we make up stories to explain what happened. Stories are a way to make sense of what happened, but they are "partly true and partly fiction." This is why I repeatedly say, "Give up being right." Or, if you argue with a fool, that makes two. The best advice that you give others is advice that you should take for yourself.

It is so easy to see what others need to change, do, or give up. Is it not so? Jesus gave up being right about who He [is] was. He allowed the crowd [us] to be right and died for all the misunderstandings, all the hurtful things that are said, all the wrongs committed by brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers. Jesus, hanging on the cross said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). As with Abraham, Jacob and Esau, and all the rest, God is the redeemer of things gone wrong in family relationships. By grace, people of the Way are commanded to love one another and forgive one another as the Father forgives them.

Jesus, praying to the Father said, "I in them and You in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that You have sent me and have loved them even as You have loved me" (John 17:23).

So, may the peace and love of Christ Jesus be with you and in you, from this day forward and forever more. Amen.

Pastor Carl Franson



Ladies, please come to the Fourth Annual Mother's Day Tea on Saturday, May 1st from 2~4 pm. All are welcome. Bring your Mother, Daughter, Aunt, Sister, neighbor or an adopted mother. We will be decorating cupcakes made by United Methodist Women. If you have never attended our tea, please try to do so this year. With Poochie in charge, it has to be fun. Please RSVP Poochie Montgomery at 860-379-7880 if you're planning to attend.



Relay for Life is June 26 and 27 from 2:00 pm to 8:00 am. This overnight event is designed to celebrate survivorship of Cancer and raise money for research. Teams gather and take turns walking or running laps. Each team is to keep one member of his/her team on the track at all times. There is a \$10 donation to register which includes sponsorship information and a t-shirt. Please consider joining our team for this worth-while event. See Mindy Henry or call her at 860-738-7737 for more information.



UMW News - May 2010

The UMW met Wednesday, April 7th. We had 14 attendees and Joann Little gave a wonderful devotion on the subject of WOTLing (Waiting on the Lord). She told us the story of David, read Psalm 27, and read other scriptures related to the subject.

Marie read us the Shipping Report from Heart to Heart, the Church World Service New England newsletter as a Mission Moment. We were surprised as to how many of the kits actually stay in this country.

Poochie said she has lots of cards but needs to know the names of people to send them to. If you know someone who needs cheering up, please let her know.

Margo had correspondence in the way of thank yous from Susan B. Anthony and the Greenwoods Scholarship. She also showed us Torrington's UMW brochure of activities which we feel might be helpful to us.

We voted to buy four 8 foot tables from B.J.'s. These will be used for various church events and will help in saving the backs of many people.

Gail is looking into a gift idea to the church in memory of June Eid.

The Mother-Daughter Tea is going to be on May 1st from 2-4p.m. Poochie is planning a cupcake tea party. It will be an interactive tea with Moms and Daughters decorating cup cakes made by the UMW ladies. We will also enjoy a cake walk and have musical entertainment. Leigh Allen will be our official photographer. If you have never attended our tea, please try to do so this year. With Poochie in charge, it has to be fun.

There will not be any formal meeting in May, but in June we will have a Pot Luck Supper at Ann Kramer's home.

Refreshments were served by Poochie and Margo and many CWS Kits were put together after. Many hands did make for light work. Marie will bring them to the Winsted UM Church where all the kits from our area will be gathered and then sent to a distribution center at the end of April.

UMW Spring Gathering

Margo, Marie, Joann, Janet Lagrange and Pat attended a UMW Spring Gathering at the Simsbury UM Church on Saturday April 10th. The church was beautiful and many other UM women were in attendance. The theme was "Surviving by Faith" and Ruth Ann Lobo, Rebecca Lobo's mom, spoke on her faith journey with

breast cancer when her daughter was a popular U Conn basketball star. She was humorous, spiritual and truly an inspiration to all who were there. We could have listened to her all day. The whole Simsbury experience left us all feeling very uplifted and spirit filled. If you haven't been to a Conn District event, try to go to one. You always come away feeling good.

May God be with you,
Pat Allen, UMW Vice President

2010 Bean Hole Bean Supper Dates

June 5th

September 18th

October 23rd

The church had the first Beanhole Bean Supper for 2010 on April 24th. Thank you to all who participated and cooked potatoes, made cakes as well as helped at the supper itself. Many had to wear more than one "hat." But we had fun making it a major success. Final profits are not in, but all three seatings were well attended. Many people stepped up and took on new responsibilities and the results of their efforts were awesome. We also appreciated volunteers who joined us for the first time and the young people who waited tables received many compliments on their attentive service.

Mother's Market

We are planning a Mother's Market on Saturday, May 15th from 9 am to 3 pm. This is similar to a Vendor Fair but is made up of tables bought by mothers to sell their gently used childrens clothing as well as maternity wear, toys, baby items, baby and children's furniture, anything related to what Moms may need or could use. It's a way to recycle things longer needed, but is still useful and make money at the same time. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Mindy Henry at 860-738-7737 or Pat Allen at 860-379-2403.

Indoor 6 foot and 8 foot tables will be provided for \$10 and \$15. A bigger outside space will also be available but you must supply your own table and shelter for \$20. A luncheon and bake sale is also planned.



Pleasant Valley UMC now has an active prayer shawl ministry. Our talented ladies have been knitting, crocheting and sewing these lovely shawls for anyone that needs comfort. If you know of someone that is ill or would benefit by one of these shawls, please contact Margo Fenn at 860-379-3874.

COM Article for May 2010 Link

The Council on Ministries met on April 14th, following the Administrative Board meeting, with 10 people in attendance. Mindy Henry explained some ideas she has on re-structuring the Sunday School classes for the fall. Mindy would like to arrange the classes to more closely align with the curriculum which is currently being used. This would reduce the number of classes and teachers needed.

Mindy also reminded everyone about the Bowl-A-Thon which is planned for Sunday, April 25th at the Simsbury Rock 'n Bowl. Pledge and Sign-up sheets are available from Mindy or can be found on the Bessie Table. Last year was a fun event and everyone is looking forward to a repeat.

Pastor Carl reported that he has found an organization at the conference level which will be responsible for the accounting of the Bolivia Mission funds. Frontier Foundation is acting in that capacity. He also shared that plans for a Confirmation Class, to be held in the fall, will begin over the summer months. Pastor Carl will discuss best meeting days and times with those parents and students who will be attending.

Activities for the Youth Group continue to be discussed in connection with a visit to a New York City church and the possibility of joining with the First United Methodist Church of Torrington's youth for UM Army. Pastor Carl feels that making an opportunity for our youth to become involved with some type of mission program is a way to help them connect by helping out someone less fortunate. He feels this will build a sense of church community and they will come away with many valuable insights.

Plans were discussed for the upcoming Gifts Discovery evening and potluck supper on Friday, April 16th. It is not necessary to have attended the previously presented Three Colors of Ministry evening in order to attend the Gifts Discovery session. COM hopes that many folks will attend and learn what their gifts are and how they can be used to support the ministries of the church.

Pastor Carl has also spoken with Pam Crosby about a continuation of the training done last year on Healing Prayer. This would be a next level course for those who have participated in the class before. More details will follow.

The UMW reported that the annual drive to complete Church World Service mission kits was the focus of their last meeting. Also plans are underway for hosting the yearly Mother's Day Tea event on Saturday, May 1st. Invitations will be sent out soon. Margo shared information about the District UMW's Spring Day Apart event, held on Saturday, April 10th at the Simsbury UMW. The keynote speaker was Ruthann Lobo who shared her spiritual and inspirational journey with breast cancer.

The updating of information on the website was discussed and several of the COM members have expressed interest in learning how the program runs so that more people will be involved in keeping the website current. Sharon will contact Susan Smith and arrange a training session.

On Sunday, April 18th the shawls made by the ladies in the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be dedicated during the worship service. This will be an on-going mission and outreach program.

COM is open to all members of the church and anyone with ideas, fundraising events, programs, small group initiation, educational opportunities, etc. is invited to attend. Everyone is encouraged to take an active part in helping plan and direct the ministries and activities of the church.

The next meeting of the Council on Ministries is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11th at 7:00 PM.

Administrative Board Meeting

An Administrative Board Meeting was held on April 14, 2010, and the council voted to elect Laurie Fenner as the Chairperson for the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC).

It was decided that the pastor's reimbursement account budget line will be increased to \$6,500 from \$3,000 to accommodate the increased travel expense and for continuing education of the pastor. The Admin Board approved the Trustees recommendation that the parsonage remain vacant through June 30, 2011.

Helpers This Month

Greeters

5/2	Tom Bailey Family
5/9	Bill & Becky Bridges
5/16	The Card Family
5/23	Ed Connors Family
5/30	Joanne Little

Sanctuary Cleaning

5/2 & 5/9	Millahn
5/16 & 5/23	Carvalho
5/30	Fenn

Coffee Hour

5/2	Poochie Montgomery , Mary Lou Centofanti, Cathy Baum
5/9	Sharon Foxx , Suzie Zygmunt, Mari Forman
5/16	Judy McKay , Barbara Sherwin, Dawn Renfrew
5/23	Beth Abbott , Susan Smith, Becky Bridges
5/30	Gail Klein , Marie Phelps, Bette Vasko

Ushers

5/2	Gene deRoode & Wendy Sullenberger
5/9	Barbara & Steve Bailey
5/16	Bill & Becky Bridges
5/23	Ray Abbott & Shirley Green
5/30	Paul & Sharon Foxx

Counters

5/2	Ann Kramer & Mary Lou Centofanti
5/9	Becky Bridges & Steve Bailey
5/16	Emil Klein & John Baum
5/23	Mary Liz Simons & Gail Klein
5/30	Mary Lou Centofanti & Ted Millahn

Acolyte

5/2	Matthew Civelli
5/9	Ashley Civelli
5/16	Thomas Henry
5/23	Abby Henry
5/30	Justin Lucas



celebrations in May

Birthdays

5/5	Marie Phelps
5/7	Carol Hewitt
5/12	Amanda Ritchie
5/13	Fabio Barone Edward Connors Janet LaGrange
5/14	Charlotte Heuschkel
5/16	John Baum
5/19	Leigh Allen
5/20	Salvatore Barone Karen Carvalho
5/21	Ashley Granquist
5/23	Beth Abbott Kathleen Chianese
5/24	Derek Green Kara Vasko
5/28	April Abbott
5/31	Nancy Winn Caitlin Zygmunt Justin Abbott



Anniversaries

5/25	Mary Liz & Chip Simons
5/29	Susan & Ed Zygmunt

**Next Link Deadline
is May 19th**



Attention Graduates

If you will be graduating this spring from high school or college, we want to offer our congratulations. In the June Link, graduates will be listed by name and the school from which they graduated. Please send to psfoxx@att.net or call the church office at 860-379-2157.