

December Link

‘tis the Reason!

Yes, you read that right. 'tis the Reason. Also, please notice that "Reason" is upper case, not that's not what we call "title case", that's because the reason for this Christmas season we are embarking on December 1, 2019 is the savior of the world. We begin celebrating the savior of our souls, the creator of all things, the all mighty Jesus Christ, who came down from heaven, from His throne on most high and became one of us. Who walked on this earth, waded through all the treacherous dangers and sins of man, and died for us on the cross on Golgotha Hill (a.k.a. Calvary's hill).

Jesus walked this dry and dusty land, suffered pain, both physical, mental and emotional (but I'm guessing never spiritual – one of those questions I'll have to ask when I get there), all for the sake of you. When was the last time you put down the remote and said to yourself "Self, I need to be less comfortable, I need to be thirsty, dirty, hungry and sleep on the ground with a rock for a pillow. I need to face an angry mob for doing nothing wrong, oh yeah, and I think I need to be beat and tortured too," got up out of your La-Z-Boy, and made a beeline for the desert, without your air-conditioned car.

I'm guessing Never?. But this is exactly what Jesus Christ did for us, and he did it not just because he felt He needed to be uncomfortable, He did it for the soul purpose of saving you (see what I did there? Soul purpose?).

Here at PVUMC we are having a Christmas celebration all month long. Christmas songs in worship (not just hymns), a beautifully decorated sanctuary, along with a Christmas Hula to "Mary did you know" on the first Sunday of Advent(then join us for a potluck luncheon too!). Join us all month long to help celebrate the coming of our Savior every Sunday at 10AM.

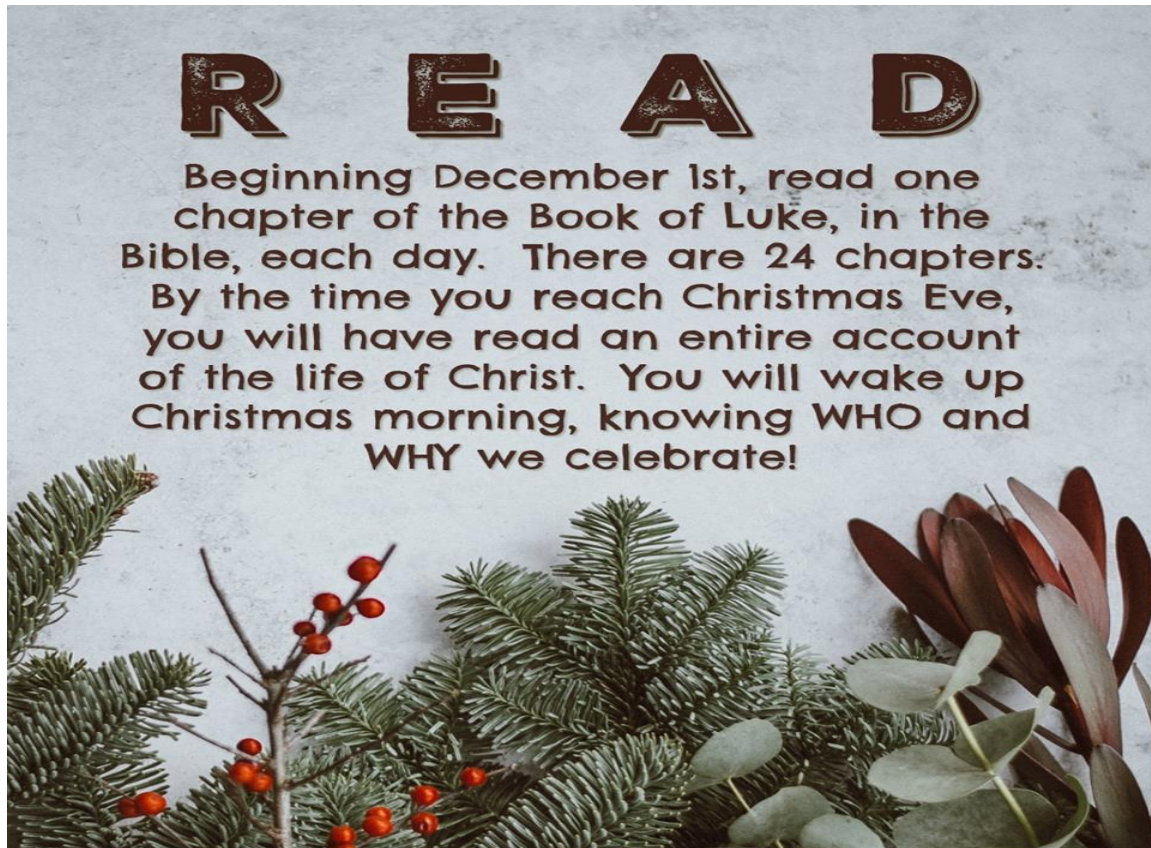
Join us for our Christmas Eve service at 5PM, bring the whole family, the louder your kids are the more at home your pastor will be, so let's make Christmas about Christ, who loved the children so.

There are 24 chapters in the book of Luke, take on one chapter each day this advent season (not my idea, but I like it!), and by the time Christmas eve arrives, you'll have read the entire story of Jesus' life, you'll enter into Christmas day with full knowledge of exactly why he came, even if you already knew it, be reminded once again, let God open your eyes to things you may have missed before.

This Christmas season, get up out of your comfort zone, be more for the kingdom than you ever have before. Be "That Guy" that says "Merry Christmas" in reply to "happy holidays". Stand up and be Merry because of Christ.

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Mike and Karen Antici

START A NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION!



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## **The Gold Wrapping Paper - An Inspirational Short Christmas Story**

Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.

As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten money to buy what was in the shoebox.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us has been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

## *a Unto Us Savior's Born*



## Scriptures for December


December 1: "The Advent-ure Begins": John 3:1-21  
 December 8: "Pierce the Dark": John 1:1-13  
 December 15: "Dancing On the Ceiling": Matthew 22:1-10  
 December 22: "The Gift of Generosity": Luke 19:1-10  
 December 24: "I Need CHOCOLATE!": Luke 2:1-20  
 December 29: "Recognizing Jesus": Luke 2:22-40

## December Schedule

|                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 1<br>December 8<br>December 15<br>December 22<br>December 29                | <u>Nursery Care</u><br><br>Volunteer Needed<br>VolunteerNeeded<br>VolunteerNeeded<br>VolunteerNeeded<br>Volunteer Needed                                                 | <u>Cleaners</u><br><br>McKay<br>Altar Guild<br>Volunteer Needed<br>Steve Bailey<br>Millahn                                        | <u>Ushers</u><br><br>Barney Connors & Shirley Green<br>Dawn & Wayne Renfrew<br>Nick & Jennie Peck<br>Barbara & Steve Bailey<br>Shelley & Evan Bailey                          |
| December 1<br>December 8<br>December 15<br>December 22<br>December 29                | <u>Counters</u><br><br>Wayne Roberts &VolunteerNeeded<br>Steve Bailey &Volunteer Needed<br>John Baum & Volunteer Needed<br>Volunteers Needed<br>John Baum & Steve Bailey | <u>Greeters</u><br><br>Volunteers Needed<br>Dietz Family<br>Root Family<br>Barb & Steve Bailey<br>Volunteers Needed               | <u>Coffee Hour</u><br><br>Pot Luck – Kick-Off Advent<br>Michelle & Jay Riches<br>Shelley Bailey<br>Volunteers Needed<br>Open Coffee Hour (bring your leftover holiday treats) |
| December 1<br>December 8<br>December 15<br>December 22<br>December 29                | <u>Lectors</u><br><br>Jonah Gerber<br>Suzanne Hurley-Gerber<br>Cathy Baum<br>Steve Bailey<br>Tom Lucas                                                                   | <u>Children’s Message</u><br><br>Volunteer Needed<br>Volunteer Needed<br>Volunteer Needed<br>Volunteer Needed<br>Volunteer Needed |                                                                                                                                                                               |
| December 1<br>December 8<br>December 15<br>December 22<br>December 24<br>December 29 | <u>Lector Readings</u><br><br>John 3:1-21<br>John 1:1-13<br>Matthew 22:1-10<br>Luke 19:1-10<br>Luke 2:1-20<br>Luke 2:22-40                                               |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                               |



# December

| <b>SUN.</b>                                                                 | <b>MON.</b>                       | <b>TUES.</b>                                                                              | <b>WED.</b>                                                                                                      | <b>THUS.</b>                                 | <b>FRI.</b> | <b>SAT.</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1<br>Worship Service<br>10:00AM<br>Holy Communion                           | 2                                 | 3<br>10:00AM Prayer<br>Group<br><br>7:00PM Trustees<br>Meeting<br><br>8:00PM AA           | 4                                                                                                                | 5<br>2 – 4 PM<br>Food Bank<br><br>6:45PM AA  | 6           | 7           |
| 8<br><br>Worship Service<br>10:00AM<br><br>UMW Meeting after<br>coffee Hour | 9                                 | 10<br>10:00AM Prayer<br>Group<br><br>7:00PM<br>Admin./Finance<br>Meeting<br><br>8:00PM AA | 11                                                                                                               | 12<br><br>6:45PM AA                          | 13          | 14          |
| 15<br>Worship Service<br>10:00AM                                            | 16<br><br>6 -8 PM<br>Food<br>Bank | 17<br>10:00AM Prayer<br>Group<br><br>8:00PM AA                                            | 18                                                                                                               | 19<br>2 – 4 PM<br>Food Bank<br><br>6:45PM AA | 20          | 21          |
| 22<br>Worship Service<br>10:00AM                                            | 23                                | 24<br>5:00pm<br>Christmas Service<br><br>8:00PM AA                                        | 25<br>MERRY<br>CHRISTMAS!<br> | 26<br><br>6:45PM AA                          | 27          | 28          |
| 29<br>Worship Service<br>10:00AM                                            | 30                                | 31<br>10:00AM Prayer<br>Group<br><br>8:00PM AA                                            |                                                                                                                  |                                              |             |             |
|                                                                             |                                   |                                                                                           |                                                                                                                  |                                              |             |             |

**A VERY MERRY**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**and Happy New Year!**



### Church Humor:

A minister who was very fond of pure, hot horseradish always kept a bottle of it on his dining room table. He offered some to a guest, who took a big spoonful. When the guest finally was able to speak, he gasped, "I've heard many ministers preach hellfire, but you are the first one I've met who passed out a sample of it."

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it." After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!" The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair.." To which his father replied, "Yes, and they walked everywhere they went!"

A Minneapolis couple decided to go to Florida to thaw out during a particularly icy winter. They planned to stay at the same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier. Because of hectic schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their travel plans. So, the husband left Minnesota and flew to

Florida on Thursday, with his wife flying down the following day.

The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an email to his wife. However, he accidentally left out one letter in her email address, and without realizing his error, sent the email.

Meanwhile, somewhere in Houston, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a minister who was called home to glory following a heart attack. The widow decided to check her email expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she screamed and fainted. The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My loving wife

Subject: I've arrived

I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send emails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then. Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

P.S. Sure is hot down here!!!

## **December Announcements**

### **UMW NEWS**

Thanks to all the talented hard working people who helped make the Christmas fair a huge success. We made in excess of \$2,300. UMW will meet on December 8th after coffee hour and we will have the fun of disbursing the money to local people in need. We will also be collecting towels and wash clothes for the Susan B. Anthony Shelter and food items for our food pantry, Current needs for the Food Bank are chunky can soups, spaghetti sauces with meat or cheese, boxes of instant jello and pudding, and any other non-perishable foods. I love my Church family. Peace, Cathy Baum (who is thankful to belong to a wonderful church.)



### **The Mitten Tree**

It has been a long standing tradition at PVUMC to “dress” a tree in the Narthex with warm hats, mittens, gloves, or scarves. This year the Mitten Tree will be in place for the first Sunday in Advent (December 2<sup>nd</sup>) and the congregation is invited to bring in new items to decorate the tree. Just before Christmas these donations will go to a local charity for distribution to their clients. In the past we’ve made the donation to The Salvation Army in Winsted. Here’s a great opportunity to help someone keep warm this winter!

### **Sock Drive**



We are collecting socks for the homeless people at the YMCA in Winsted. There will be a basket under the mitten tree for your sock



## **Your Help Is Needed!**

Perhaps you've noticed recently how many times the word "volunteer" appears on the back page of the bulletin where helpers for the current and next week are listed. As you're already aware, we've lost several members of our congregation; people who normally are quick to offer help and fill in the blank spots when needed. Now we're asking for your help in filling those empty places. If you notice that a "volunteer" is scheduled for the next week to help with being a greeter, a sanctuary cleaner, nursery support, financial counter, or with coffee hour, please step in and do your part to keep our church running smoothly and continuing to be a welcoming place to worship. Many hands make light work...please help out wherever you can!

## **Sanctuary Cleaners Needed!**



We are desperately in need of additional people willing to give one hour a few times a year to keep our Sanctuary neat and clean. Part of Stewardship is to take care of our resources and helping to keep our Lord's house neat and tidy is part of that promise. If you are willing to serve in this way, please speak with Margo Fenn.

## **Prayer Chain Volunteers Needed**

Our church has always had an active community of prayer warriors who, when notified of a need, will spread the word and send multiple prayers on their way to our Father in heaven. The purpose of the Prayer Chain is to pray for people in need of prayer, near and far, or whether or not they are a member of the church. There are no meetings to attend; just a phone call or two to spread the word and then prayers! If you are interested in more information about the Prayer Chain or are interested in volunteering, please contact Penny Church at 860-379-0716.

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## **Advent Study**

Come join us for an Advent study starting December 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 pm. and running through December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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Church office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00AM to Noon.

Pastor Mike has office hours on Sunday from 12:30PM to 3:30PM or by appointment.

## **Church contact info:**

Visit us online at: [pleasantvalleyumc.com](http://pleasantvalleyumc.com)

Church Office: 860-379-2157

Church Kitchen and Food Bank: 860-379-0346

Church email address: [pvumc181@gmail.com](mailto:pvumc181@gmail.com)

Pastor Mike's email: [mike@antici.com](mailto:mike@antici.com)

Pastor Mike's phone number: 203-997-5069