

February Link

A train (wreck) of thought

The other day, my wife and I were watching TV when a commercial came out for an old story, new movie “Call of the Wild.” “OHHHH I loved that book” my wife exclaimed as I quietly thought to myself “Never read it” and then remembered I married a book worm. As we watched the trailer, I saw this old guy alongside his faithful (very obviously CGI) canine companion. As I began thinking to myself, who is this old guy they cast for the movie? Then I realized, wait. . . oh my. . . that. . . **THAT’S HARRISON FORD!!!** Oh, I love that guy, maybe I’ll go see this movie after all! Yeah, he was the guy who didn’t kill his wife (it was the one-armed man!) . . . and Indiana Jones, and who can forget the world’s favorite rebel. . . Han Solo.

Then I realized. . . wait, if I remember him in all those movies. . . I’m old too. But I digress . . .

Han Solo. . . everyone’s favorite rebel. Always swooping in, just in the nick of time, making the right choices even though he doesn’t have to, and saving the day. And that got me thinking, though we may all love the rebel who on the outside seems selfish but ultimately does the right thing, imagine a rebel, one who **never** seems selfish on the outside, **always** does the right thing, puts himself in harms way to save everyone and does it all while teaching us to do good, to do better, to be the better person, to love everyone unconditionally, even those we don’t like.

I’m talking here about **my** favorite rebel of course: Jesus! Think about this for a moment, was he really a rebel? Did He ever really go against the laws of man? He went against the laws of God that had been skewed to favor certain men (I’m looking at you, Pharisees), but Jesus kept the law of the government, never failing to obey it. That’s why Pontius Pilot said, “I find no basis for a charge against this man” (Luke 23:4). Jesus wasn’t a rebel as we think of one, He wasn’t a rebel against “the man” Jesus was a rebel against sin. Sin disgusted him, it hurt him to see it, it made him angry (ok, only once) and it killed him (literally). But, in that one last rebellious act, rebelling against death itself, rebelling against the sins of all of humanity, He saved us, as He opened our eyes to His law, His 2 commandments: love God & love everyone like you love yourself.

This month, whatever you may be celebrating, be it Black history, American Heart Health, Canned Food Month (no really, it’s a thing), or Punxsutawney Phil being yanked from his slumber so we can see if spring will arrive in 6 weeks or if there will be 6 more weeks of winter (?). Celebrate one more thing, celebrate the rebellion of sin in Jesus. Celebrate the life of Jesus, join us in our sermon series “The order of Christ” as we walk through the life of Jesus in chronological order from his birth to his resurrection. We worship on Sundays @ 10 PM and on Wednesday February 26th @7 PM to welcome in the season of Lent: Ash Wednesday

Take a lesson from Jesus, be a sin rebel this month and every month.

Blessings always

Pastor Mike and Karen Antici

(By the way, I predict spring will arrive on March 19th☺)



I read this recently and thought it was worth passing on.

Hope you enjoy it. ~Re

A father takes his son into the forest, blindfolds him and leaves him alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not remove the blindfold until the rays of the morning sun shine through it. He cannot cry out for help to anyone. Once he survives the night, he is a MAN. He cannot tell the other boys of this experience, because each lad must come into manhood on his own. The boy is naturally terrified. He can hear all kinds of noises. Wild beasts must surely be all around him. Maybe even some human might do him harm. The wind blew the grass and earth, and shook his stump, but he sat stoically, never removing the blindfold. It would be the only way he could become a man! Finally, after a horrific night the sun appeared and he removed his blindfold. It was then that he discovered his father sitting on the stump next to him. He had been at watch the entire night, protecting his son from harm. We, too, are never alone. Even when we don't know it, God is watching over us, sitting on the stump beside us. When trouble comes, all we have to do is reach out to Him. If you liked this story, pass it on. If not, you took off your blindfold before dawn. Moral of the story: Just because you can't see God, doesn't mean He is not there. "For we walk by faith, not by sight"!!!



Scriptures for February

February 2: "We're not worthy!": Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22
 February 9: "40 Days of Temptation": Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13
 February 16: "Ready or not!": Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11
 February 23: "Demons and Gluttons": Matthew 11:11-19; Luke 7:28-35

February Schedule

February 2 February 9 February 16 February 23	<u>Nursery Care</u> Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	<u>Cleaners</u> Millahn Millahn Collins Collins	<u>Ushers</u> Shelley & Evan Bailey Steven Shaw & Judy McKay Bonnie Slater & Bertha Weih Barbara Sherwin & Shirley Green
February 2 February 9 February 16 February 23	<u>Counters</u> Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed	<u>Greeters</u> Steve & Barb Bailey Margo Fenn Renfrew Family Volunteers Needed	<u>Coffee Hour</u> Riches Dietz DeRoode Volunteers Needed
February 2 February 9 February 16 February 23	<u>Lectors</u> Tom Lucas Johan Gerber John Baum Karen Dietz	<u>Children's Message</u> Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	
February 2 February 9 February 16 February 23	<u>Lector Readings</u> Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22 Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13 Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11 Matthew 11:11-19; Luke 7:28-35		



**Dear Lord, As we enter
 this Solemn and Holy
 Season, we pray that
 you would send your
 Holy Spirit upon us that
 we might prepare ourselves
 for these coming 40 days of Lent.
 Even though we may no longer wear sackcloth
 and ashes, we do seek to humble ourselves so
 that we can understand the magnificence of Your
 Love for us as You humbled Yourself and gave Your
 Life on the Cross that we might receive the gift of
 Eternal Glory with You. AMEN.**

February

<u>SUN.</u>	<u>MON.</u>	<u>TUES.</u>	<u>WED.</u>	<u>THUS.</u>	<u>FRI.</u>	<u>SAT.</u>
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2 10:00AM Worship Service with Holy Communion	3 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	4 10:00AM Prayer Group 7:00PM Trustees Meeting 8:00PM AA	5	6 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	7	8
9 10:00AM Worship Service	10	11 10:00AM Prayer Group 7:00PM Admin./Finance Meeting 8:00PM AA	12	13 6:45PM AA	14 	15
16 10:00AM Worship Service	17 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	18 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	19	20 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	21	22
23 10:00AM Worship Service	24	25 10:00AM Prayer Group 6:00PM Shrove Pancake Supper 8:00PM AA	26 Ash Wednesday  7:00PM Ash Wednesday Service	27 6:45PM AA	28	29

Church Humor:



A Texan farmer goes to Australia for a vacation. There he meets an Aussie farmer and gets talking. The Aussie shows off his big wheat field and the Texan says, "Oh! We have wheat fields that are at least twice as large".

Then they walk around the ranch a little and the Aussie shows off his herd of cattle. The Texan immediately says, "We have longhorns that are at least twice as large as your cows".

The conversation has, meanwhile, almost died when the Texan sees a herd of kangaroos hopping through the field. He asks,

"And what are those"?

The Aussie asks with an incredulous look, "Don't you have any grasshoppers in Texas"?

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There was a little old lady who was very spiritual who would step out on her porch every day, raise her arms to the sky and yell, "Praise the Lord"

One day, an atheist bought the house next door to her, and he became very irritated with the spiritual lady. So after a month or so of her yelling, "Praise the Lord" from her porch, he would go outside on his porch and yelled back, "There is no Lord."

Yet, the little old lady continued. One cold, wintry day, when the little old lady couldn't get to the store, she went out on her porch, raised her hands up to the sky and said, "Help me Lord, I have no more money, it's cold, and I have no more food."

The next morning, she went outside, and there were bags of food on the porch, enough to last her a week. "Praise the Lord," she yelled.

The Atheist stepped out from the bushes and said, "There is no Lord, ha, ha, ha, I bought those groceries!"

The little old lady raised her arms to the sky and said, "Praise the Lord, You sent me groceries and you made the Devil pay for them!"

Two priests die at the same time and meet St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter says, "I'd like to get you guys in now but our computers are down. You'll have to go back to Earth for about a week, but you can't go back as humans. What'll it be?"

The first priest says, "I've always wanted to be an eagle, soaring above the Rocky Mountains."

"So be it," says St. Peter, and off flies the first priest.

The second priest mulls this over for a moment and asks, "Will you be keeping track of us, St. Peter?"

"No, I told you the computer is down. There's no way we can keep track of what you are doing. This week's a freebie."

"In that case," says the second priest, "I've always wanted to be a stud."

"So be it," says St. Peter, and the second priest disappears.

A week goes by, the computer is fixed and the Lord tells St. Peter to recall the two priests.

"Will you have trouble locating them?" He asks.

"The first one should be easy," says St. Peter. "He's somewhere over the Rocky Mountains, flying with the eagles. But the second one could prove to be more difficult."

"Why?" asks the Lord.

"Because he's on a snow tire somewhere in Alaska."

February Announcements

The Bean Hole Bean Supper committee will meet after church on Sunday February 23, 2020. We will discuss and evaluate the continued viability of this long standing church activity. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

February 25 is Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras). The men of the church will be hosting a pancake supper. Supper is at 6 PM. Join us for food and fellowship.

Nursery Attendant Wanted

The Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church seeks to hire someone to babysit preschool age children during church on Sunday mornings.

Duties:

Tend 1 to 5 preschool age children in the nursery room during church. Assist the Sunday School staff as needed when there are no children in the nursery.

Hours:

Sundays during church, from 10:00 am to 11:15 am

Qualifications:

Age 18+ with child care experience and a current background check.

Must love children.

Pay:

\$20.00 per week, as an employee (W2)

Benefits:

No formal benefits, but you are welcome and encouraged to partake in our yummy coffee hour fellowship time after church.

Contact:

If interested, contact Cathy Baum at 860-379-9398 or cathybaum@netscape.net to schedule an interview.

It's Community Garden Signup Time

If you are interested in applying for a garden plot in the Barkhamsted community garden this year, contact Dave Lewis at lewisd1691@gmail.com.

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

Church Office: 860-379-2157

Church Kitchen and Food Bank: 860-379-0346

Church email address: pvumc181@gmail.com

Pastor Mike's email: mike@antici.com

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



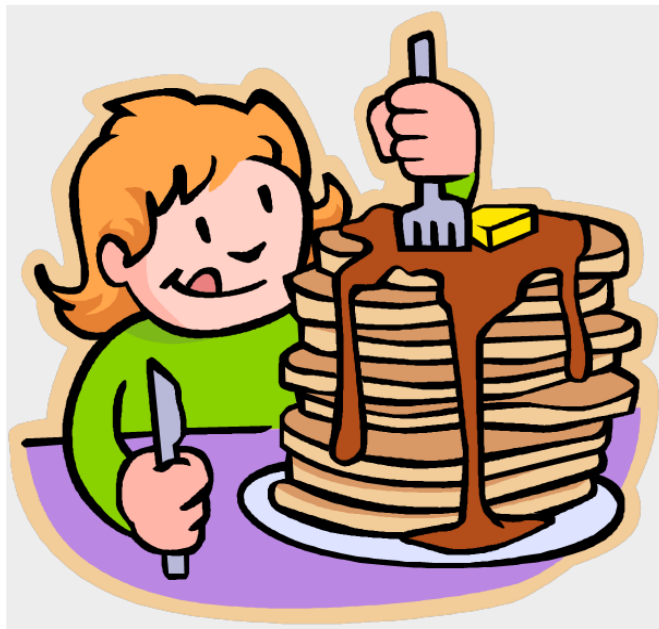
Happy Valentines Day

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Pleasant Valley

United Methodist Church

93 River Road, Pleasant Valley, CT



Tuesday, February 25th, 2020

6:00 PM

All are Welcome!