

# December Link

## It's beginning to look a lot like . . .

One of my favorite Christmas songs is "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." I remember hearing that played on the 8-track sound system in my home growing up. I think we even had it on one of those black plastic disks you put a needle on too, but the 8-track was cool new tech, so we used that most often. This was one of the songs that didn't have to "click" in the middle of the song, so that was cool too. Ahh the memories of Johnny Mathis singing "a pair of Hopalong boots and a pistol that shoots is the wish of Barney and Ben," I can hear it ringing in my mind right now.

Then Michael Bublé comes along recently and masterfully re-records it and I have to think that I bet Meredith Wilson never even dreamed back in 1951 when she wrote this song originally called just "It's beginning to look like Christmas" that her song would be recorded and beloved by so many over the years that it's become a tradition, a staple, something that defines Christmas, even if we have no idea what Hopalong boots are.

Yes, some of you may be thinking, "but Pastor Mike, you hate the snow, right? That's why you're moving to Hawai'i". . . well yes, I prefer it only snow on Christmas day and leave me alone the rest of the year, but Christmas isn't about snow. And it's doesn't start to look like Christmas just because it snows, it starts to look like Christmas when the decorations begin to go up, and (most) people start to smile more, when begin to give thanks they made it through another year, heading out to enjoy time with family and friends at a multitude of Christmas parties and gatherings.

It starts to look like Christmas when, one Saturday afternoon, the alter guild swoops in like the Tasmanian devil and \*poof\* the sanctuary is adorned with the likes of evergreen garland, Christmas trees and yes, the mitten tree too!

It really is starting to look a lot like Christmas, but this year, Christmas will look a little bit different, it won't be what we know, it won't be filled with as much "Christmas" as you're used to. In person worship services at PVUMC has been suspended and we've gone back to online only worship as Covid spikes across the state and the country. Yes, there's a mitten tree, but since there's no in person worship service, we've put a box outside the narthex for you to drop off your mittens. Someone will swing by daily to check the box and hang the mittens on the tree. Drive by the church from time to time to see the tree filling up, like motel 6, we'll keep a light on for you.

As my wife and I began packing, we gave away a bunch of our Christmas decorations, including our pre-lit tree and my wife commented "it's so sad". . ."Sad?" I asked? She said "Yea, it's going to be a sparse Christmas" . . . of course the pastor in me spoke up real quick:

Christmas is about giving. God gave Jesus to the world, so we can give back just a little and be joyous about it. Maybe the person who took the tree can't afford a new tree and they're getting a tree far beyond what they can afford! There was no decorated pine tree in the manger, no flashing blue, red, white and green LED's flashing on the side of the Inn, yet the joy and peace of baby Jesus arriving filled the land just the same. This year, as things are different in ways we couldn't picture just a mere 12 months ago, remember though it may not look like Christmas did last year, Christmas is still coming, Christmas is still, and always will be about love coming to this world that so desperately needs it.

Merry Christmas  
Pastor Mike and Karen Antici



*One* tree can start a forest;  
*One* smile can begin a friendship;  
*One* hand can lift a soul;  
*One* word can frame a goal;  
*One* candle can wipe out darkness;  
*One* laugh can conquer gloom;  
*One* hope can raise your spirits;  
*One* touch can show you care;  
*One* life can make the difference,  
be that *One* today.

inspire *Positive* **IP**  
soul sensations **SS**

~Unknown



## Scriptures for December

December 6: "Stewardship; Prayers": TBD

December 13: "Stewardship; Talents": Romans 12:4-8

December 20: "Stewardship; Treasures": Genesis 14:18-20, Malachi 3:6-12

December 24: "Mary, did you know!": Luke 1:26-38

December 27: "Your Neighbor is a Duck": Philippians 2:1-11



## December Schedule

December 6 December 13 December 20 December 27	<u>Nursery Care</u>  Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	<u>Cleaners</u>  Altar Guild Millahn Volunteer Needed Steve Bailey	<u>Ushers</u>  Shirley Green & Tom Lucas Dawn & Wayne Renfrew Sandy Slemmer & Steve Shaw Shelley Bailey & Steve Bailey
December 6 December 13 December 20 December 27	<u>Greeters</u>  Judy McKay Margo Fenn Barb & Steve Bailey Volunteer Needed	<u>Lectors</u>  John Baum Cathy Baum Bonnie Slater Steve Bailey	<u>Coffee Hour</u>  **May Resume in 2021**
December 6 December 13 December 20 December 27	<u>Children's Message</u>  Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed		
December 6 December 13 December 20 December 24 December 27	<u>Lector Readings</u>  TBD Romans 12:4-8 Genesis 14:18-20, Malachi 3:6-12 Luke 1:26-38 Phillipians 2:1-11		



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

## December

<u>SUN.</u>	<u>MON.</u>	<u>TUES.</u>	<u>WED.</u>	<u>THUS.</u>	<u>FRI.</u>	<u>SAT.</u>
		1 10:00AM Bible Study  7:00PM Trustees Meeting	2	3  6:45PM AA	4	5
6 10:00AM Worship Service with Holy Communion	7  6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	8 10:00AM Bible Study  7:00PM Admin./Finance Meeting  8:00PM AA	9	10  2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank  6:45PM AA	11	12
13 10:00AM Worship Service	14	15 10:00AM Bible Study  8:00PM AA	16	17  6:45PM AA	18	19
20 Christ the King Sunday  10:00AM Worship Service	21  6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	22 10:00AM Bible Study  8:00PM AA	23	24 7:00PM Christmas Eve Service  6:45PM AA	25 Christmas Day  	26
27 10:00AM Worship Service	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve  		



## Church Humor:



Preacher Norton wakes up to a beautiful, sunny Sunday morning and decides he just has to play golf.

He pretends he's sick and convinces the associate pastor to preach for him that day, then heads out of town to a golf course about 50 miles away so he won't run into anyone from his church.

On the first tee he sees he has the entire course to himself: Everyone else is in church!

Watching from heaven, Saint Peter turns to the Lord and asks, "are you going to let him get away with this?"

Just then Pastor Norton hits the ball. It heads straight for the pin, drops just short of it, rolls up, and falls into the hole - a 420 yard hole in one!

Astonished, Saint Peter looks at the Lord and asks, "Why in Heaven did you let him do that?"

The Lord smiles and replies, "Who's he going to tell?"

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A Sunday School helper was delivering a station wagon full of kids home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children began discussing the dog's duties.

"They use him to keep crowds back," said one youngster.

"No," said another, "he's just for good luck."

A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrant."

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(Anyone who has ever dressed a child will love this one!)

Did you hear about the Texas teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put on his cowboy boots?

He asked for help and she could see why..

Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on. By the time they got the second boot on, she had worked up a sweat

She almost cried when the little boy said, 'Teacher, they're on the wrong feet.' She looked, and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the right feet..

He then announced, 'These aren't my boots.'

She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, 'Why didn't you say so?' like she wanted to. Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet. No sooner had they gotten the boots off when he said, 'They're my brother's boots. My mom made me wear 'em.'

Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry. But, she mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots on his little feet again.

Helping him into his coat, she asked, 'Now, where are your mittens?'

He said, 'I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots.'

She will be eligible for parole in three years!

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## **December Announcements**



### **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 (November 29th) and the congregation is invited to bring in new items to decorate the tree. Please have your donations in by Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Just before Christmas these donations will go to The Salvation Army in Winsted. Here’s a great opportunity to help someone keep warm this winter! If you do not feel comfortable coming into the church, there will be a container placed outside the Narthex door for your donations. Donations will be brought into the church on a daily basis.

**\*\*NOTE:** there will be no sock collection this year.



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

## UMW News

As with everyone, this has been a difficult year for the UMW. At our last meeting, which took place in March, the difficult decision was made to disband the formal UMW organization here in Pleasant Valley. The ladies would like to continue to support the work of the church in a different capacity and have decided to gather as the Women's Group in the future. Of course, plans came to a halt with the coming of the covid-19 outbreak. Recently, in order to decide on our annual holiday donations to various community organizations, the ladies participated in a virtual meeting. At that time, we voted to support the following organizations: Community Food Bank, United Methodist Homes, the Barkhamsted School gift baskets, the Barkhamsted Cookie Jar, Joseph's House, Warm the Children, and a donation to the church in honor of Penny Church. These donations will effectively empty the treasury and allow the UMW unit to be officially closed.

In addition, we voted to donate to the Greenwoods Scholarship Foundation in 2021. We will also again support this year the collection of new towels & washcloths which will be donated to Susan B. Anthony in Torrington. Anyone is welcome to add to our donation and items will be collected in the carpeted classroom at the church.

This has been a bittersweet decision as the UMW has been established for many, many years at this church. We recognize that times change and organizations change as well. We want to thank everyone for their support of the PVUMW over the years. Your support and participation in our events has made it possible for us to offer donations to many local charities over the years. Thank you!

### Christmas Towels for Susan B. Anthony

Even though the UMW will miss having our annual Christmas Party this year, we will still be able to carry on the tradition of donating towel sets to the Susan B. Anthony Shelter for battered women. Please buy **a bath towel, face cloth and/or hand towel** before Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. **You may leave them in the carpeted classroom** at any time until then (if you have a key to the church), **OR** you may **bring them to the church between 2:00-4:00 pm on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>** to leave in a big box outside the kitchen door. Actually, I will set the box up in the morning, but I plan to be there that afternoon to wish you Merry Christmas in person. **OR**, phone me at **860-379-6194** and I will come to your house to pick the towels up. We keep our holiday spirits up by helping others keep their spirits up! ~Ticia

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

