

November Link

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1: 14

How much preparation work for Christmas do you have to accomplish this week? There is shopping to do, wrapping to complete, cooking and baking to finish, cards and letters to compose and cleaning up all the chaos all that doing creates.

Our "to do" lists of preparations are longer and longer each day. I actually heard one over worked, frustrated mom declare on one Sunday morning in December, "I don't have time for church, its Christmas!"

In the midst of all our lists, let us not forget the most important preparation of the season: preparing your hearts for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Prepare for the light of Christ to shine through our lives for all to experience. Prepare to be awestruck by the incarnation of God in our world and in our lives.

Advent is a time of preparation and a time of anticipation.

We need to dwell in advent before we travel to the cradle of joy.

We need to understand the dark corners of our life in order to see our need for light found in the birth of Christ.

In order to come to the stable and fall to our knees, in order to be awestruck, in order to grow deeper in not only our understanding of who Jesus is, but in our faith and love we need to understand first why he came; we need to recognize that Jesus came to bring light, full of grace and truth. We need to long for him, wait for him, anticipate his coming. Then Jesus will be born again in our hearts. What a joy filled moment that will be, indeed!

I pray for all of you a blessed Advent and Christmas Season full of love, and light. Come, Emmanuel.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Barbara



HOLIDAY



Silent Auction

&

Bake Sale



Plus A Tag Sale Room!!

SAT Dec 4th 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Bidding Closes 1:30 pm

Gift Baskets, Gift Certificates, Gift items and more!

Pleasant Valley

United Methodist Church

93 River Road

Pvumc181@gmail.com



Gospels for December

December 5: Luke 3:1-6

December 12: Luke 3:7-18

December 19: Luke 1:39-45

December 24: Luke 2:1-20

December 26: Luke 2:41-52



December Schedule

****We are holding back on the schedules until we know more about when and how services will resume in person. However, if you'd like to do something please reach out to Pastor Barbara at barb_drew@hotmail.com**

December 5 December 12 December 19 December 24 December 26	<u>Nursery Care</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>	<u>Ushers</u> Dawn & Wayne Renfrew Barbara Sherwin & Dawn Renfrew Steven Shaw & Judy McKay Steve & Barb Bailey
December 5 December 12 December 19 December 24 December 26	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Lectors</u> Tom Lucas Angela Root Bonnie Slater Steve Bailey	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
December 5 December 12 December 19 December 24 December 26	<u>Acolyte</u> Kenzi Shaw Derik Dietz Axel Shaw Aria Dietz Karmen Dietz	<u>Children's Message</u>	
December 5 December 12 December 19 December 24 December 26	<u>Lector Readings</u>		

****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	2 6:45PM AA	3 2:00 – 4:00 PM Christmas Fair set up	4 8:00AM - UMM 8:00AM – 3:00PM Christmas Fair
5 10:00AM Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School	6 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	7 10:00AM Prayer Group 7:00PM Trustees Meeting 8:00PM AA	8	9 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	10	11
12 10:00AM Worship Service Sunday School	13	14 10:00AM Prayer Group 7:00PM Admin./Finance Meeting 8:00PM AA	15	16 6:45PM AA	17	18
19 10:00AMWorship Service Sunday School	20	21 10:00AM Prayer Group 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 8:00PM AA	22	23 6:45PM AA	24 5:00PM Christmas Eve Service	25 
26 10:00AM Lessons in Carols Worship Service Sunday School	27	28 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	29	30 6:45PM AA	31 	



Church Humor:



Little Susie had been born with a sunny disposition, and was the most optimistic kid anybody had ever seen.

She loved people and animals, and no matter what happened, she always saw the bright side.

She was also an artistic girl. So one Christmas, her parents got her a big bag of clay for making pottery. They put it on the back porch next to a bag of horse manure for the garden.

On Christmas Eve, dad wrapped the presents. It was a little dark on the porch, and as you may have guessed, he wrapped the manure by mistake, instead of the pottery clay.

On Christmas morning, Susie was so excited to see what Santa had brought her. When she finally got to unwrap her big present, her parents watched with anticipation to see how much she liked her clay.

When Susie opened the package, and then the bag inside containing several pounds of stinky horse manure, the parents were aghast.

But before they could apologize, Susie said, "Oh boy! I got a pony

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A lady lost her handbag in the bustle of Christmas shopping. It was found by an honest little boy and returned to her. Looking in her purse, she commented, "Hmmm.... That's funny. When I lost my bag there was a \$20 bill in it. Now there are twenty \$1 bills."

The boy quickly replied, "That's right, lady. The last time I found a lady's purse, she didn't have any change for a reward."

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One Christmas, a mother decided she was no longer going to remind her kids to send thank you notes. Consequently, the kids' grandmother never received any thanks for the Christmas checks she sent to the kids.

The very next Christmas, all the kids stopped by in person to thank their grandmother for their checks.

When asked by a friend what caused this change in behavior, the grandmother replied, "Simple. This year I didn't sign the checks."

December Announcements

Storm Warnings

As we approach winter, please remember to watch WFSB, channel 3 for any cancellations of meetings or worship due to winter weather. Its 90 degrees today, so it's difficult to imagine snow, but winter will come!

Covid Protocols

Bishop Bickerton has requested for the safety of all, that we return to using masks during Sunday Service even if you have been fully vaccinated. Also, as you enter the church there is a sign in sheet. We ask that you all sign in, so that if we are exposed to Covid we can contact anyone who was in the church with needed information.

Children's Message

If you would like to volunteer to give a Children message during worship, or if you would like to volunteer to be a liturgist (Reader) let Pastor Barbara know.

Prayer Gathering

The prayer group meets every Tuesday morning at 10:00 AM in the Parish House. Everyone is welcome!

THE LIVE NATIVITY

December 4 | 5:00-8:00pm

Free Admission

Location: Salmon Brook Park, Granby

Every Christmas season, we invite the community to take part in this holiday tradition. Stop by any time during the event and enjoy it at your own pace. Follow the luminary path to the manger scene and reflect on the evening Christ was born. Characters and animals are real.

Be sure to stop in the Pond House after experiencing the Live Nativity and enjoy hot chocolate, cider and complimentary (pre-packaged) refreshments.

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 9:00AM to Noon, 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