

## February Link

***I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13: 34-35***

It's February and it is time to turn our attention to Valentine's Day. I know this because red heart shaped candy appeared in stores the day after New Year's.

It is a time that we focus on the one we love and cherish and praise God for our life together. Love is such an essential segment of our existence. Can you imagine living in a world when there is no one to love or who loves you back? The loneliness would be unbearable. Who do you love? A spouse? Child? Parent? Sibling? Friend?

Here is a deeper question. How do we know what love is, and how do we live into that love? I think we know love because God first loved us. We respond to that deep longing to be with God, to return to our first love by loving one another. Jesus commands that we love one another.

Notice that Jesus said I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. It wasn't a suggestion or a proposition or even a nudge. It is a commandment. If you love Jesus, if you follow his ways, then you are to love one another- even those and, maybe especially those, who are less deserving of your love.

Notice that Jesus said to his disciples to love one another as I have loved you. They certainly did not earn that love; actually, they so often behaved in a way that should have warranted Jesus' disdain and yet, he never gave up on them. His love was sacrificial. He did not love to receive something in return and his love was never based on merit of the disciples. He loved them not because of their actions but despite them. And he never hesitated to believe that they would follow his command to love.

Is it possible for people to know you are disciples of Christ by the way you share love, sacrificially, as Jesus did? Do people who meet you, meet also the love of Christ? If you know Christ's endless, unwarranted love for you, it is your privilege to pass it on so others will know Christ as well.

It is the time of love; make a conscience effort this month to love one another as He loves you.

Blessings,

Pastor Barbara

### **Ash Wednesday**

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day season marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, prayer and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.

This year Ash Wednesday is on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please plan to set aside the time to receive ashes as we begin to journey to the cross. Through the preparation of Lent we will truly experience the joy of Easter.

To accommodate all of our congregation we will have a time of distribution of ashes at noon as well as an evening service.

### **Lenten Bible Study**

Each Tuesday at 10:00 am you are all invited to attend a gathering in the Parish Hall as we study the Bible together. We will be focusing on a Lenten Study beginning on Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup>.

We will also duplicate the study in the evening either on Zoom or in person. I need anyone who is interested in the evening class to let me know which method would be better for you: in person or on line. Majority will choose. Call the office and leave a message or call or text me with your choice; 203-623-3754

Pastor Barbara

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- [Bishop Thomas Bickerton](#), the residential bishop of New York Conference, was elected as the next president of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church during the bishops' online meeting via Zoom.

"It is very humbling to be asked to offer my leadership at this point in the church's life and work," Bishop Bickerton said after the election. "While the road ahead will no doubt present us with great challenges, I celebrate a faith which offers the firm assurance that God will provide us with the light we need to find the next step on the path."

My prayer is that with grace and deep respect, we will continue to find ways to love one another as a response to God's great love for us. I pledge to lead out of that same conviction and covet the prayers of the church as we embark on this journey together."

# A FINANCE SEMINAR For NORTHWEST COOPERATIVE PARISH

DATE: Sunday, February 27th

TIME: 12:30-2:00p.m. with five-minute break time

VIA ZOOM: Zoom link will be sent to each church near the time.

*Ellen Knudsen, Executive Director of United Methodist Frontier Foundation, will lead the seminar.*



The following will be included in the seminar:

- Planned giving
- Faithful Stewardship
- Narrative budget
- Q&A



All are welcome to attend:  
Trustee Committee members and  
Finance Committee members  
are encouraged to attend.



St. Pauly Textile, Inc.

**Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church**

Dear Friends,

We hope this letter finds you and your families safe and warm this winter. We're happy to report that 2021 was a record year. Over *40 million* pounds of clothing were donated to our clothing sheds - that's over 200,000 pounds of clothing collected every business day!

Every clothing shed is an important part of the big picture. Here are some numbers to show you the impact your own shed made in 2021...

- 10,100 pounds of clothing were donated to your shed in 2021
- This was enough to clothe an estimated 1,860 people all over the world
- Based on this volume of clothing, your organization received \$404

Thank you so much for partnering with us on this. We truly appreciate all the support you continue to give to the clothing shed program!

Sincerely,  
The Team at  
St. Pauly Textile, Inc.

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1067 Gateway Drive · Farmington, NY 14425 · 585-924-7941 · [questions@stpaulytextile.com](mailto:questions@stpaulytextile.com)

## Gospels for February

February 6: Luke 2:1-11

February 13: Luke 6:17-26

February 20: Luke 6:27-38

February 27: Luke 9:28-36

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## February 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](mailto:barb_drew@hotmail.com)**

February 6 February 13 February 20 February 27	<u>Nursery Care</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>	<u>Ushers</u>  Steve & Barb Bailey Sandy Slemmer& Janet LaGrange Barbara Sherwin & Shirley Green Bonnie & Darlene Slater
February 6 February 13 February 20 February 27	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Lectors</u> Jonah Hurley Tom Lucas Angela Root Bonnie Slater	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
February 6 February 13 February 20 February 27	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Children's Message</u>	
February 6 February 13 February 20 February 27	<u>Lector Readings</u>		

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

# February

<u>SUN.</u>	<u>MON.</u>	<u>TUES.</u>	<u>WED.</u>	<u>THUS.</u>	<u>FRI.</u>	<u>SAT.</u>
		1 10:00AM Prayer Group  7:00PM Trustees Meeting	2 	3  2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank	4	5 8:00AM - UMM
6 10:00AM Worship Servicewith Holy Communion	7	8 10:00AM Prayer Group  7:00PM Admin./Finance Meeting  8:00PM AA	9	10  6:45PM AA	11	12
1 10:00AM Worship Service	14 	15 10:00AM Prayer Group  8:00PM AA	16	17  2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank  6:45PM AA	18	19
20 10:00AM Worship Service	21 	22 10:00AM Prayer Group  8:00PM AA	23	24  6:45PM AA	25	26
27 10:00AM Worship Service	28					





“He’ll take a dozen long-stemmed roses.”

### February Announcements

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As covid numbers are declining, the church leadership has determined that we can, once again, open the church for Sunday worship beginning in February with the following restrictions

1. Masks must be worn by all over the age of 3. Masks and hand sanitizer are available in the narthex
2. Every other pew will be closed, and we ask that you sit with family only
3. Sunday school and coffee hour will be suspended for the time being
4. please remember to sign in so , if case of contact tracing is needed
5. no congregational singing for now

We also strongly encourage those who are most vulnerable or who live with a vulnerable individual to stay home and join us via website. We miss you, but we desire you remain safe and know that we will be together again, hopefully soon.

In the meantime, I am always available to you- in person if you are comfortable with a visit or by phone if not.

We all appreciate that you have continued to contribute to the church with you gifts and tithes, so ministry of PVUMC continues during this challenging time

God be with and keep you safe

Blessings,

Pastor Barbara

## **NYAC News**

You can read what is happening in the United Methodist Church by going to the New York Conference website UMC.com

### **Storm Warnings**

As we approach winter, please remember to watch WFSB, channel 3 for any cancellations of meetings or worship due to winter weather.

### **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.

### **Directory Update**

The Baums have moved. Here is their new information:

John and Cathy Baum  
3 Long Lott Road  
West Granby, CT 06090  
Phone: 860-413-3158  
Cell: 860-733-2567

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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](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 Barbara's email: [barb\\_drew@hotmail.com](mailto:barb_drew@hotmail.com)  
Pastor Barbara's phone number: 203-623-3754