

December Link

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5

Have you ever been through a time of darkness? Most of us have at one time or another. Darkness is equated with a difficult, sad time. A time with seemingly no hope in sight.

There are some people who, because of lack of sunlight, become very depressed in winter months. Their condition is called Seasonal Affective Disorder. Even those of us not suffering from this condition can sympathize with lower energy and loss of hope in the dark months. Like a hibernating bear, we want to hunker down in the dark months and wait for the light to return.

The prophet, Isaiah understood this feeling of despair when he wrote that *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.*

Do you hear what the prophet is saying to us? No matter how dark the night, God will be with us. **This is one of the great promises that God has made to His people. God is always with us in our times of darkness.**

The God of all creation came to a humble maiden in an obscure village called Nazareth and told her that she would bear a child. That child is the hope of this world.

Of course, that child is not only the hope of the world; he is the hope of each of us. The child is hope and promise and a light that shines on each of us and within each of us who proclaim Jesus our Lord.

“Here is the promise of Advent; a promise of Emmanuel- God with us; a promise made thousands of years ago to the people of God and set in motion two thousand years ago. The Messiah has come to bring light to a dark world.

He has planted the seeds of the kingdom of God in you and me and there will be no more darkness because we will be in the presence of the Light of the world.

I pray that each of you walk in the light of the Christ Child this season of love.

Blessings,

Pastor Barbara



Many thanks to everyone who donated for the Thanksgiving Bags for the Salvation Army. We would also like to thank Pat & Corky Stark for their hard work getting the bags together and delivering them to the Salvation Army.

Between Pleasant Valley and Winsted, we were fortunate enough to be able to provide 40 Thanksgiving Baskets for those in need.



SALVATION ARMY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WRAPPING EVENT

The Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to help move the collected toys from the Winsted Police Department to the Masons Lodge on December 11th at 9:30AM.

The Christmas wrapping and shopping will be from December 12th to December 18th. If anyone would like to help, please call George Frascatelli at the Masons. His number is 860-543-4405.



Also, Pam from the Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to ring the Christmas Kettle Bells at Stop & Shop in Winsted. If interested please call her at 860-379-8444.



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve service will be Saturday, December 24th at 5:00 pm.

Christmas Day service will be Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 am.



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 from November 27th through December 18th 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!

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Sock Drive

We will also be collecting socks for the homeless people at the YMCA in Winsted. There will be a basket under the mitten tree for your sock donations from November 27th through December 18th.





The meaning of the

Snowflake

*Every new snowflake comes to the earth
as a picture of our Saviour's birth,
because they are sent from up above
and remind us of God's care and love.*

*Each one is so intricate and small
because Christ sees the detail of us all,
and just as two are never the same,
the Lord knows and calls us each by name.*

*Snowflakes gently cover the world in white
and hide what's unlovely from our sight,
showing us how He covers our sin
and gives us His grace when we come to Him.*

*So may every snowflake bring Christ to mind
and in every bit of white may you find
a reason to celebrate anew
and a reminder of His love for you.*

~Holley Gerth~



DO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING



AT OUR

SILENT AUCTION

SAT DEC 3, 2022

9:30 am – 2:00 pm

BIDS CLOSE AT 1:30 PM

Plus ...Our “Almost Famous” Bake Sale

&

Holiday Cookie Table!



Soup Luncheon

10:30 am – 1:30 pm

Desserts Available!!



Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church

93 River Rd. Pleasant Valley, CT

For info Email: pvumc181@gmail.com

Gospels for December

December 4: Matthew 3:1-12
December 11: Matthew 11:2-11
December 18: Matthew 1:18-25
December 24: Luke 2:1-20
December 25: John 1:1-14

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 4 December 11 December 18 December 25	<u>Nursery Care</u>	<u>Cleaners</u> Altar Guild Volunteers Needed Janet, Jay & Judy Janet, Jay & Judy	<u>Ushers</u> Sandy Slemmer & Janet LaGrange Barbara Sherwin & Shirley Green Bonnie & Darlene Slater Dawn Renfrew & Shelley Bailey
December 4 December 11 December 18 December 25	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Lectors</u> John Baum Cathy Baum Karen Dietz Suzanne Gerber	<u>Coffee Hour</u> Janet & Jay LaGrange Carolyn Day & Wil Wesley Dawn Renfrew Volunteers Needed
December 4 December 11 December 18 December 25	<u>Counters</u> Bonnie Slater & Steve Bailey Barbara Bailey & Jay LaGrange Steve Bailey & John Lundy Jay LaGrange & Wayne Roberts	<u>Children's Message</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 6:45PM AA	2	3
4 10:00AM Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:30AM Trustees Meeting	5 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	6 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	7 10:00AM Bible Study	8 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	9	10
11 10:00AM Worship Service	12	13 10:00AM Prayer Group 7:00PM Admin./Finance Meeting 8:00PM AA	14 10:00AM Bible Study	15 6:45PM AA	16	17
18 10:00AM Worship Service	19 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	20 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	21 10:00AM Bible Study  First Day of Winter	22 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	23	24 5:00PM Christmas Eve Service 
25 10:00AM Worship Service 	26	27 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	28 10:00AM Bible Study	29 6:45PM AA	30	31 

December Announcements

Our 2023 stewardship campaign is off to a great start. In the first week we have received 28 pledges for a total of \$81,520.00. If you have not yet submitted your pledge it is not too late.

A reminder that I will need new 2023 volunteer lists for Ushers, greeters, and lectors. If you could get these to me by December 15th, I would appreciate it. ~Re

If you, or someone you know, is in the hospital in need of a visit please call either Pastor Barbara or the Church office to schedule a visit. Because of privacy laws, hospitals can no longer give out this information.

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 9:30AM to 1:00PM, 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

