

December Link

For unto us this day is born, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. God has come home.

Which advent or Christmas Hymn is your favorite? What words speak profoundly to your heart, to your faith and to your love from God in this season? We love hymns, I believe, because music expresses emotions that our words often cannot. So, we love to sing Christmas Carols. Some secular tunes will also, warm us and evoke memories and tears.

"I'll be home for Christmas," one song says, "if only in my dreams", a wonderfully nostalgic song that speaks of how we desire to be with the ones that we love at Christmas time. More than anything we need to feel the hugs, hear the laughter, speak of the news, and look into the eyes of those we love. No phone call or face time will replace the presence of the person we long to hold in our arms. The best gift of this time of celebration is when loved ones, especially distant loved ones, come to gather at home.

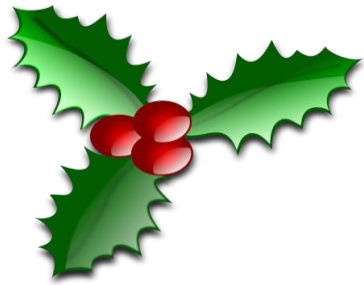
Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem that night to register for taxes. They were also called home. And when Jesus was born that first Christmas, God came to our earthly home to be with us. God came to where we are to be with us. God loves us that much.

This season there will be myriad of family gatherings, with loved ones, and laughter and meals, and celebrations, music, and chaos and all the little joys that come at festivities of Christmas. There will be too much to do, too much food and so little time!

Amid all that, take time to be close to your true home; come home to be near the One who loves you unconditionally. Feel the greatest joy of all - the joy of coming home to Jesus. Feel the embrace and look into the eyes of the One who loves you more than you can even imagine. Set aside time to sit with Him, talk to Him and look deeply into his eyes. Come home to Jesus as He comes home to you.

Blessings,

Pastor Barbara



Holiday Fair

Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church

93 River Road, Pleasant Valley

Between the Drive-In movie and the bridge

SAT., DECEMBER 2, 2023

9am ~ 2:00pm

Handmade Crafts

Christmas items

Knit Items

Bake Sale

Filled Baskets

and More!

Operation Christmas Child, Shoeboxes, was a success. Twenty seven boxes were delivered last Sunday to the distribution center at Hands of Grace in New Hartford. This was our first time participating in Franklin Graham's yearly project. The boxes were for children of the world who would not have any Christmas gifts this year. Each box has a colorful story of Jesus Christ in the child's language. Thank you Cathy Baum for suggesting we participate this year. It was a joy to shop for the gifts.

The Mary and Marthas



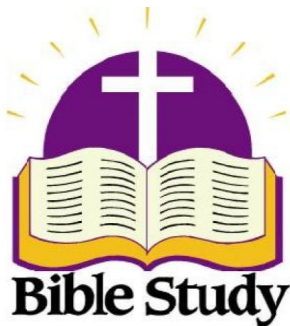
We have several young people who are interested in being confirmed in Christ this spring. Anyone young person, 12 years old and up are eligible. If you are interested, let the office, or Pastor Barbara know, so we can order materials. The classes will be held on Sundays, after church on the first and third Sundays starting in January. The first meeting will be an informational meeting for youngsters and parents.



VISITING COMMITTEE

You are invited to join our church's new visiting committee.

Members of this group will fill a vital role in our church by visiting members of our church as well as residents in our community who would benefit from having someone pay a call on them. There will be a brief meeting after church January 7th for all those interested in being a part of this committee. If you have any questions or suggestions of who might benefit from a visit, please see Kathy Loomis.



New Testament Bible Study

In January, we will be starting a new Bible study based on the New Testament. So we can accommodate anyone who is interested, we need to know if day or evening classes are better and what day of the week is the best for most of us. If there is a number of folks that want day and evening we can duplicate. We will also have a Zoom component for those who cannot attend in person. Let the office or Pastor Barbara know if you are interested and what time and day slot is best for you.



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 December 3rd through December 17th 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!



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 December 3rd through December 17th.



The children’s Christmas pageant will be Sunday, December 17th.



Christmas Star

*A diamond shines no brighter than that lovely Christmas star.
It shines in all its brilliance; it's seen from near or far.
A symbol of the Christ child as He lay upon the hay,
It tells to all the waiting world a King was born that day.*

*O Bethlehem Star keep shining – give us faith and hope and love.
Keep our thoughts forever turning to the Savior up above.
Give us strength and hope and courage to do our best by far
And never falter in our faith as we watch that Christmas star*

- Author Unknown



Gospels for December

December 3: Mark 13:24-37
December 10: Mark 1:1-8
December 17: John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 24: Luke 2:1-20
December 31: Luke 2:22-40

December Schedule

	<u>Cleaners</u>	<u>Nursery Care</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
December 3 December 10 December 17 December 24 December 31	Stephanie Stark Altar Guild Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed		Steve & Barb Bailey Sandy Slemmer & Janet LaGrange Barbara Sherwin & Shirley Green Barbara Sherwin & Darlene Slater Dawn Renfrew & Shelley Bailey
	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
December 3 December 10 December 17 December 24 December 31		Tom Lucas Kathy Loomis John Lundy Sandy Taylor Steve Bailey	Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed Dawn Renfrew & Darlene Grant Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed
	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Children's Message</u>	
December 3 December 10 December 17 December 24 December 31	Barb Bailey & John Lundy Steve Bailey & Wayne Roberts John Lundy & Barbara Sherwin Wayne Roberts & Barb Bailey Barbara Sherwin & Steve Bailey		



December

<u>SUN.</u>	<u>MON.</u>	<u>TUES.</u>	<u>WED.</u>	<u>THUS.</u>	<u>FRI.</u>	<u>SAT.</u>
					1 Craft Fair set-up	2 9:00AM – 2:00PM Craft Fair
3 10:00AM Worship Service with Holy Communion	4 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	5 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	6	7 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	8	9
10 10:00AM Worship Service 11:15AM Trustees Meeting	11	12 10:00AM Prayer Group 7:00PM Admin./Finance Meeting 8:00PM AA	13	14 4:00 – 9:00PM AA	15	16
17 10:00AM Worship Service with the children's Christmas pageant	18 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	19 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	20	21 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA  First Day of Winter	22	23
24 10:00AM Worship Service 5:00PM Christmas Eve Service	25 	26 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	27	28 6:45PM AA	29	31
31 10:00AM Worship Service 						

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.

If you know of someone who is not getting the Link but would like to, please contact Re in the church office with their information and email address so they can be added to the list. If they don't have access to emails, just give us their mailing address and we will mail it out to them. We will also leave a few copies on the Bessie table.

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

