



THE PRES

The First Presbyterian Church Pleasant Valley
Vol. 14 No. 10
December 2014

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Life is full of juxtapositions. Some of us experience the Advent Season as a time of great expectation and joy, while others among us see only the emptiness and loneliness of the days ahead. The naked hatred that blares at us from multitudinous video screens and handhelds only increases our sense of isolation. Some of us no longer watch or listen to the news or read the newspapers. We turn off and tune out to a world that makes us feel vulnerable, hopeless, and helpless to stay the onslaught of the inhumanity that rages about us.

We are not alone with these feelings. There was a man who daily lived in the midst of similar horrors. He coped with the loneliness, isolation, and injustice that raged about him by offering hope and direction for those among whom he lived. His life changed the face of the world forever. And the offer he made to others is available to you today – even as you read this. You see, his name is Jesus, and he wants to be an active part of your life.

Unlike so many of us, Jesus never tuned out the world around him. He exhibited compassion, love, and patience. He gave his very life that all might come to know peace, hope and a quiet joy amid the chaos of this life. He taught us how we are to live, and how we are to make a difference in this world. If we love as he loves we can quell the hatred that destroys. In the great commission Jesus commanded:

“... go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19-20

So, when you feel like tuning out and turning off; when you feel like nothing you do can make a difference in the “big picture” of life; when you feel alone and despairing – do as Jesus did; reach out to someone and live the life Jesus exemplified. I offer you the Prayer of Friar Francis of



Pg. 2



Pg. 3



Pg. 4



Pg. 5



Pg. 6



Pg. 7



Pg. 8



Pg. 9

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		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Pastor's Article Continued:

Assisi who loved the Lord so well:
*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.*

*O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much
seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love;*

*For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
it is in dying that we are born again to eternal
life.*

Let us walk from darkness into light as we endeavor to live the life that Jesus offers, for Jesus is the light of the world. Come and celebrate his birth with us.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Shawn



Sunday, November 30th: First Sunday in Advent

9:30 am Worship Service & Sunday School
10:30 am Coffee Hour
11:10 am Bible Study



Sunday, December 7th: Second Sunday in Advent

9:30 am Worship & Sunday School
The Lord's Supper
10:30 am Coffee Hour
11:10 am Bible Study



Sunday, December 14th: Third Sunday in Advent

9:30 am Worship Service & Sunday School
10:30 am Coffee Hour
11:10 am Bible Study



Sunday, December 21st: Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:30 am Worship Service & Sunday School
10:30 am Coffee Hour
11:10 am Bible Study



Wednesday, December 24th: Christmas Eve

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service. A service of lessons and carols featuring our junior and senior vocal choirs.
11:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 28th:

9:30 am Worship Service & Sunday School
10:30 am Coffee Hour
11:10 am Bible Study





Session Update

1. Pastor Shawn reported that our church has been selected for a survey by the Presbyterian Panel. Session approved taking part in this survey. She showed fliers for the Voices of Glory concert on January 9, which is being sponsored by 3 Pleasant Valley churches, who will benefit from the profits. She reported on members who are sick and who have moved.
2. Gary Murphy reported that the Finance Committee is receiving Budget Request forms from committees in preparation for planning the 2015 Budget.
3. Stewardship Chairperson Jerry Conklin reported that 47 pledges have been received. Donations to the Celebration Fund are continuing to come in. The Jim Hendricks concert made a profit of \$105 for the Food Pantry.
4. Christian Education Chairperson Karen Haight reported that Alta is contacting all Sunday School families to invite children to participate in the Christmas Eve service. When we know how many children will be present, plans for this service and the rehearsal on Saturday, December 20, will be finalized.
5. Worship Committee Chairperson Judy Brandow presented the updated informational brochure about our church. Copies will be

given to elders for possible editing or additions.

6. Personnel Committee Chairperson Gary Murphy reported that the committee has met. Applications for the positions of Christian Education Coordinator are due by December 1, 2014.
7. Nominating Committee Chairperson Greg Clark reported that his committee has met and is working to nominate elders, deacons, and trustees for 2015.



WREATH MAKING!

Wreath making began on Nov. 23rd, after coffee hour. If you would like to help or learn to make a wreath this is your chance! We will be meeting on the following dates:

Sunday, Nov. 30th (after coffee hour)

Friday, Dec. 5th (5:30 - 8:30pm)

Saturday, Dec. 6th (9 - 12 Noon)

Friday, Dec. 12th (5:30 - 8:30pm)

Saturday, Dec. 13th (9 - 12 Noon)

Saturday, Dec. 20th (9 - 12 Noon).

If you have greens to donate or would like to pre-order your wreath please call the Murphys at 868-7298.



Holiday Auction

The Holiday auction committee thanks everyone who took part in our holiday auction (donating,

baking, publicizing, setting up, cleaning up, babysitting, bidding, etc.) We made over \$9,000! It was a great way to begin our Anniversary Year!



Joy to the World!

The celebration of Christ's birth is important to the human race - no matter what age. This year's 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service will be presented by the congregation and Sunday School students. Readers and tableau "players" are being sought to help us all share the remembrance of the Holy birth. Contact the Conklins (635-8178) if you wish to participate. Your response is requested by December 5th! Thank you!

Presbyterian Women



**PW MEETING
Tuesday,
December 3rd
7 p.m.**

Election of Officers We will also be holding our annual Christmas Cookie Swap. You do not have to bring cookies to attend the meeting! Please come either way!



January PRES

All articles and information for the January PRES must be given to Wendy by December 29th. Articles may be emailed to the church email address: secretary@pvpresby.org.



Coffee Fellowship

**COFFEE & CONVERSATION
EVERY THURSDAY**

At 10 a.m.

At Panera Bread, On Route 44
Across the street from Adam's.

SNOW CLOSINGS

www.cancellations.com

Or

94.3 FM, 101.5 FM,
97.7 FM



**BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY**

December Birthdays

Kalie Albrecht, Lisa Albrecht, Steven Albrecht, Tyler Albrecht, Brandon Baker, Carol Belton, Reno Belton, Morgan Bucey, Jan Buell, Kathi Clark, Alta Conklin, Alina Fouts, Peter Keck, Matthew Marino, Peter Morey, Stephanie Morey, Steven Morey Jr., Garrett Murray, Skyler Rubin, & Jeffrey Russell



ADAMS GIFT CARDS

You can be giving a gift to our church as you shop. Yes - when you purchase an Adams Gift Card from the church you support our church.

Cards are available in \$25, \$50, and \$100 donations and can be purchased from Helen Traver or from the church office on Tuesdays.

Adams has many things useful at holiday times. And they make great gifts as well! Please consider participating in our Adams Gift Card Program.

See or call Helen (635-8192) for further details or to get some cards. Thank you!

Anniversary Christmas Ornament

Our first anniversary souvenir has arrived in time for Christmas. An ornament commemorating our church's 250th Anniversary will be offered for sale during Advent, beginning with the November 30 Coffee Hour. The price is \$5.00.



Friendship Callers December 16th @ 9:30 a.m.



On Tuesday, December 16th, the Friendship Callers will be taking cookies to our shut-ins. Would you be willing to help by making some cookies and/or making a delivery visit? We will meet in the Yellow Room at 9:30 a.m. to package the cookies. Any questions please call Joan Smith.



Thank you to everyone who donated can tabs for the Ronald McDonald house at Westchester Medical Center. We reached our goal and filled our container!

The 3rd & 4th Grade
Sunday School Class

Caroling Party Share the Christmas Spirit! Join the Christmas caroling caravan, as we visit the homes of some friends who are not able to get out often. Can't sing well?...Bring your sunny smile and happy heart. Don't know the words?...We have song books. We will meet at the church on **Friday, December 19th at 6:15 pm** to arrange carpooling. We will then travel to the homes of some friends who may enjoy a touch of Christmas brought to them. Refreshments and fellowship will complete the evening. Please contact Helen Traver at 635-8192 if you plan to attend or if you (or someone you know) would welcome our gifts of song and good cheer. Come on out! You will go home with a warm heart even if the night is cold!

Holiday Cookie Sale

Saturday, December 20th

10 am - 1 pm

Festive holiday cookies, candies, and breads!

Gluten Free items available too!

Enjoy a comforting cup of hot cocoa or coffee while you shop!

The 4-H Beef Club will also be selling chili to eat here or to take home.

All proceeds of the cookie sale will go to support our youth mission programs and **local food banks.**

Wanted: Bakers to donate festive cookies, candies, & breads. (Please NO cupcakes!)

Baked goods may be left in the kitchen on Friday. PLEASE label your item. Tags will be left in the kitchen for you.

Contact Debi Tyger (677-4307) or look for the sign up sheet after church!



Group Home Christmas Luncheon

PW is once again collecting items for the residents of local group home. The residents will come to the church on Wednesday, December 17th at 11 a.m. We will sing some Christmas carols and have a potluck luncheon. Although PW is sponsoring this event, the ladies can't do it alone! We also need men to help make the day special. Please save the date and plan to participate. Please sign up during Coffee Hour!

The following is list of suitable gifts. Most of the items are inexpensive and readily available at any Dollar Store. Remember, these gifts should be for both men and women. All clothing should be size Large or XL.

ITEMS:

- * Cards-blank cards w/envelopes
- * Envelopes (regular size)
- * Lined paper
- * Blue or Black Pens
- * #2 Pencils
- * Men & Women's Hats - One Size Fits All
- * Men & Women's Gloves
- * Shampoo & Conditioner
- * Toothpaste
- * Deodorant - any kind
- * Men & Women's Wallets
- * Costume Jewelry
- * Combs
- * Brushes
- * Word Search Books
- * Find the Hidden Picture Books
- * Socks & Underwear for women
- * Men's Boxers & Socks
- * Sweatshirts
- * Plain Long Sleeve Shirts
- * Men's Bathrobes
- * Women's Bathrobes
- * Men & Women's Pajamas & Nightgowns
- * Electronic Games
- * Radios
- * Headphones

FOR THE SAFETY OF THE RESIDENTS:

- NO** Plastic Bags, **NO** Glass or Ceramics,
- NO** Sharp Edges, **NO** Rat Tail Comb,
- NO** Mirrors, & **NO** Spiral Bound Books

We look forward to your participation in this outreach project.

If you have questions, please call Jean Albrecht at 635-3563.

Poinsettia Order



To the Glory of God and to celebrate Christ's birth, help beautify our sanctuary this Christmas Season! Orders are being taken now through **December 7th** for poinsettias which will decorate our church. Please use the space below to place your order. You may send the order to the church office, or place it in the offering plate.

Please make checks payable to:

First Presbyterian Church.

Name: _____

No. of Plants at \$12 each: _____

Bulletin Information:

To the Glory of God and in honor of:

To the Glory of God and in memory of:

Other: _____

Please indicate:

_____ I will pick up my plant(s) after the candlelight service on December 24th.

_____ I would like the Deacons to distribute my plant(s) to someone who is ill or shut-in.

Please include payment with your order and **orders will not be accepted after December 7th!**

Thank you,
Wendy Cady
Church Secretary





To add names to the prayer list, submit a written request to the pastor, or call the Church Office. Names will be on for 4 weeks and then removed. You may request to have a name put back on the list. Please use this list in your daily prayers.

- Prayers for **Neil Rossway** (Ginny Rossway's son) who will be undergoing open heart surgery on December 1st.
- Prayers for **Donna Sheak** (member) who is home recovering from surgery.
- Prayers for **Angie Nobile** (Iris Riccardi's sister) who is hospitalized while recovering from a car accident.
- Prayers for **Gladys Zanicky** (Pastor Shawn's mother-in-law) who was recently diagnosed and is undergoing treatment for esophageal cancer.
- Prayers for **Sue Zanicky** (Pastor Shawn's sister-in-law) who is undergoing cancer treatment.
- Prayers for **Jane Barden** (member) who is now in Lutheran Care (Room 216 North) after a fall at home.
- Prayers for **Charlotte DeGroff's son** (member's son) who is hospitalized with a blood clot in his leg.
- Prayers for **Burveau Noble** (Chesney Baker's cousin) for support and healing as he deals with health issues.
- Prayers for **David Brands** (member) who is struggling with health issues.
- Prayers for **David Morse** (Irena Morse's brother in law) who is undergoing medical procedures.
- Prayers for **Sue Moore** (friend of the church) who is recovering from surgery.
- Prayers for **Margaret Traver** (member) who is in Lutheran Care Center, Room 216, 2 North.
- Prayers for **Jason Dunn** (Phyllis Menzenski's son-in-law) who is recovering from back surgery.
- Prayers for **Grace** (Hilde's McQuillan's sister-in-law) who is battling breast cancer.

Prayers for **Lee Burgess** (Friend of Karen Haight) who is battling pancreatic cancer.

Prayers for **Bob Cleary** (Karen Albrecht's father) who is now at River Valley, Room 306, 140 Main Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Prayers for **Nathan Wells** (Friend of Irena Morse) who was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

Prayers for **Rick Fay** (member) who is struggling with health issues.

Prayers for **Bob & Carol Belton** (member) who are struggling with health issues.

Prayers for **Eiluned Aikman** (member) who is struggling with health issues.

Prayers for **John Barden** (member) who are struggling with health issues.

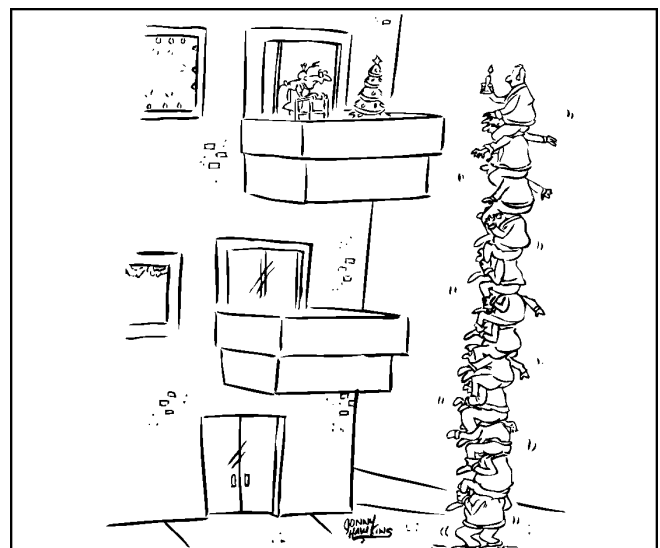
Prayers for **Jesse** (Karen Haight's niece) who is struggling with health issues.

Prayer for **Jennifer** (Karen's Cousin) who is battling cancer.

Prayers for **Anita Wolf** (Roxanne Wolf's mother) who is battling cancer.

Prayers for **Iris Riccardi** (member) who is battling cancer.

Prayers for **Gina Beckman** (friend of Andrea Kirchhoff) who is battling cancer.



Cass Park Church's carolers were always ready to make necessary adjustments.



DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8 - 3 pm PVN 6 - 9 pm Stamping Class 7 pm Bell Choir	2 8 - 3 PVN 7:30 pm NA	3 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 - 1 Bargain Basement 7 pm PW Budget Meeting & Cookie Swap	4 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 am Coffee & Conversation 5:45 pm Jr Choir 6:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Jr Grange 7 pm Sr Choir	5 8 - 3 pm PVN 5:30 - 8:30 pm Wreath making	6 9 - 12 Noon Wreath Making 10 - 1 pm Bargain Basement
7 9:30 am Worship, Sunday School, & Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11:10 Bible Study	8 8 - 3 pm PVN 7 pm Bell Choir	9 8 - 3 PVN 4:45 pm Meal for the Homeless Shelter 7:30 pm NA	10 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 - 1 Bargain Basement 6 pm Grange Dinner 7 pm Trustees Meeting 7:30 pm Lyme Disease Group	11 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 am Coffee & Conversation 5:45 pm Jr Choir 7 pm Sr Choir	12 8 - 3 pm PVN 11 am PW Bible Study 5:30 - 8:30 pm Wreath making 6:30 pm Stamping with Lisa	13 9 - 12 noon Wreath Making 10 - 1 pm Bargain Basement 5 pm Mid Hudson Deaf Club
14 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11:10 Bible Study 1 pm Stamping Class	15 8 - 3 pm PVN 7 pm Bell Choir	16 8 - 3 PVN 9:30 am Friendship Callers 7:30 pm NA	17 8 - 3 pm PVN PW Group Home Xmas Luncheon 10 - 1 Bargain Basement 7 pm Session Mtg	18 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 am Coffee & Conversation 5:45 Jr Choir 6 pm NA Counselor Meeting 7 pm Sr Choir	19 8 - 3 pm PVN	20 9 - 12 Noon Wreath Making 10 - 1 pm Holiday Cookie Sale & Bargain Basement
21 9:30 am Worship & Church School 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:10 Bible Study	22 closed PVN 7 pm Bell Choir	23 closed PVN 7:30 pm NA	24 7 pm Christmas Eve Service 11 pm Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS!	26 closed PVN	27
28 9:30 am Worship & Church School 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:10 Bible Study	29 closed PVN	30 closed PVN	31 closed PVN			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> PVN = Pleasant Valley Cooperative Nursery School </div>

All church events are in **Bold**.

Our Church Staff & Committee Chairs

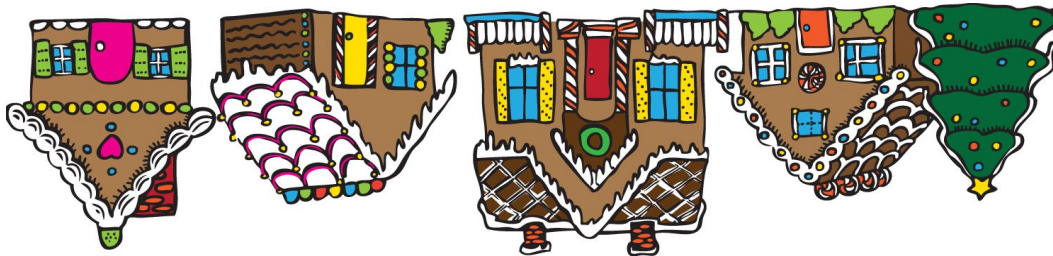
Pastor's Study	Reverend Shawn Zanicky	635-3289 ext. 11
Pastor's Residence		723-4419
Office, Secretary	Wendy Cady	635-3289 ext. 10
	Fax Line	635-3382
Bell Choir & Sr. Vocal Choir	Jerry Conklin	635-8178
Jr. Vocal & Bell Choir Directors	Alta & Jerry Conklin	635-8178
Organist	Alta Conklin	635-8178
Clerk of Session	Marilyn Brands	223-5717
Sexton	Keith Daley	635-3194
Treasurer	Wayne Sauer	635-1533
Mission Treasurer	David Brands	223-5717
Coordinator Christian Ed.	Melissa Palestro	635-3289 ext. 12

Committee

Christian Education
 Finance
 Personnel
 Stewardship/Church Growth
 Worship
 Nominating
 Technology

Chair

Karen Haight 635-2632
 Richard Walker 635-2906
 Gary Murphy 868-7298
 Jerry Conklin 635-8178
 Judy Brandow 635-2045
 Greg Clark 849-2199
 Kenneth Brands 632-1714



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
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 Pleasant Valley, NY 12569