



THE PRES

The First Presbyterian Church Pleasant Valley
Vol. 15 No. 2
February 2014

Pg. 2

Dear Friends,

Today was a difficult day for a friend of many in this congregation. She lost a much beloved daughter to an unexpected death. While death is a natural part of life, we refuse to acknowledge that it will come to us all, and the time is not of our choosing. Death feels especially difficult when we lose a child, no matter the age of that child. Our hearts cry out, "this is our child, our touchstone, our lifeline." Nothing makes sense to us; life suddenly becomes out of sync. This particular death feels especially egregious because it has occurred shortly after the death of her son and a brother.

As we waited for the deceased's husband to arrive, the questions "why" - "why did this happen?" resonated throughout the hospital room. "It's not supposed to happen this way, mothers are not supposed to bury their children." As the specter of death and grief played out once more in front of me, it became increasingly clear that there are no words that can remove such a sting. How inadequate are words at such a time!

My heart aches for our friend and her family, and for the spouse and children of the deceased. I silently echo what has been repeatedly whispered by others in the room, "How much more O LORD? How much more can this woman take?" And just as silently he answers, "I am with her. I will support her; she need only ask." "But God," I say, "how can she survive this? It is too horrible - too unfair." And again, he promises, "I am here. Trust me. I am waiting."

What I say to our friend, and to you who bear this pain with her, is this: our God is not the author of death, but the giver of life. He offers us abundant life through him, in this life and the next. God assures us that there is no situation in which we are alone. Jesus has promised, "Look, I myself will be with you until the end of the present age (Matthew 28:20)."



Worship Schedule

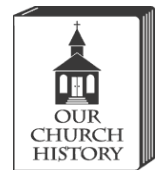


Pg. 3

Session Update



Pg. 4



Pg. 5



Pg. 6



Pg. 7

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		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			

The Pastor's Article Continued:

While we struggle to find the answers to life's many hurts, I look into the scripture which strengthens me and teaches the following:

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

You may be asking why, when we have had so much death in our congregation, I choose to address this death. I do so because this may be a time when grief has silenced her ability to pray, and we must become her voice and pray for her and her family. While she waits for the LORD, we are admonished to comfort her and support her as we have many others before. *"Comfort, comfort my people, says our God."* Isaiah 40:1.

Your friend and pastor,
Shawn



**February 11th
HOMELESS SHELTER MEAL**

We will be preparing a meal to take to the homeless shelter on February 11th from 4 - 5:30 p.m. Items needed for the meal are 9 cups cooked and diced chicken, 9 boxes of penne pasta, 6 cans of chicken broth, 6 cans of cream of chicken, and 6 cans cream of mushroom soup. We also would like 15 dozen cookies and are in need of 2 people willing to deliver the food. Please sign up during Coffee Hour. Any questions, please call Evie Franks (845) 522-4120.



Worship Schedule

Sunday, February 2nd:

- 9:30 am Worship Service, Holy Communion & Sunday School.
- 10:30 am Coffee Hour
- 11:00 am Confirmation Class & Youth Group
- 11:10 am Bible Study

Sunday, February 9th: Installation of Officers

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

Sunday, February 16th: Healing Service

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

Sunday, February 23rd:

- 9:30 am Worship Service & Sunday School
- 10:30 am Coffee Hour



**Friendship Callers
February 18th
9:00 a.m.**

The Friendship Callers will meet on Tuesday, February 18th to go visit our shut-ins. All are welcome. We meet in the Yellow Room at 9:00 a.m. Any questions please call Joan Smith at 635-3687.



Session Update

1. Session met with prospective new members Jeff Begor, Ben and Myung Sung, and Carol Smith and voted to receive them as members. They will be publicly received during worship on January 26.
2. Clerk Marilyn Brands presented the preliminary Statistical Report which will be sent to General Assembly. Session approved this report.
3. Pastor Shawn proposed that Session update the church By-laws. Copies will be given to elders so they can consider any needed changes. She reported that she is preparing for a communicants' class for ninth and tenth graders.
4. Finance Committee Chairperson Dick Walker presented the 2014 Budget. A report of fundraisers in 2013 was presented and possible fundraisers for 2014 were discussed as follows: place mats with advertisements by local businesses, a spaghetti dinner on March 8, May Fest on May 9 and 10, and a chicken barbecue, date yet to be determined.
5. Stewardship Chairperson Jerry Conklin presented the Mission Budget for 2014, which was approved by Session. He reported that mission giving is up from last year.
6. Worship Committee Chairperson Judy Brandow reviewed Communion servers for February and March.

7. Personnel Committee Chairperson Gary Murphy reported that the Committee met and recommends a 2% increase in salary for staff, according to Committee on Ministry guidelines.
8. In other business, Marilyn Brands reported on the progress of the Anniversary Committee. Steve Albrecht commented on the success of the Clothing Shed, and Session expressed appreciation to Presbyterian Women for their work on this project and for donating part of the profits to the general budget.



Coffee Fellowship

COFFEE & CONVERSATION
EVERY THURSDAY

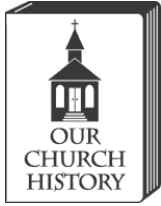
At 10 a.m.

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



February Birthdays

Danielle Albrecht, David Brands,
Dara Brands, Emily Cady,
Brenda Daley, Paige Daley,
Laurie Fouts, Evelyn Franks,
Ethan Franks, Marissa Fuller,
Delany Haight, Ginda Harden,
Chad Lasher, Steven Morey,
Tyson Myers, Melissa Palestro,
Eric Powers, Barb Smith, Jack Smith,
Jeff Traver, Jonathan Wolf-Davidson,
& Pastor Shawn.



THE HISTORY CORNER

By Joan Traver

Slavery and the Church

The practice of slavery was common in New York State at the time our local church was established in 1765. Slave ships brought enslaved people, principally from the West Indies, to the Port of New York where they were sold at markets in N.Y. City. Landowners from many states came there to buy. Unlike the plantation economy in the South, Northern slaves worked mainly in home industries, in mills, and as domestics and farmhands on relatively small properties.

Churches of various faiths, mainly Quakers, Methodists and Presbyterians were in the forefront of the Abolition Movement, leading to New York's Gradual Emancipation Act of 1799. This Act stipulated that children born to slave women after July 4, 1799 were to become indentured servants until males reached age 25 and females age 28. The reasoning for this arrangement, encouraged by the Presbyterian Synod, was to provide a certain degree of education and skills for those to be released from bondage.

Many immigrants of various ethnic backgrounds came to America to work as indentured servants because they couldn't afford to pay for their passage or to buy property here. Their duties differed little from those of the slaves except that their servitude ended after a stipulated period of time, usually seven

years. Presbyterians were influential in allowing both slaves and indentured servants to move on to regular employment when able. However, many slaves remained in their familiar households and continued to be considered the "property" of the homeowner there.

During the early 1800s, acceptance of Negroes into our church membership was noted as follows: Sept. 26, 1801 "a number of persons taken as members including Sarah, a woman of color." June 20, 1807 "Jack and Dinah, black people." Feb. 18, 1811 "a new member taken was Samuel, a black man belonging to..." (an elder).

The 1830 census listed a total of 75 slaves in the state due to the practice of people bringing slaves with them when they relocated from other areas. This practice was outlawed in 1841, effectively bringing involuntary servitude to an end in N.Y. State.

March PRES

All articles and information for the March PRES must be given to Wendy by February 24th. Articles may be emailed to the church email address: secretary@pvpresby.org.



SNOW CLOSINGS

www.cancellations.com

Or

94.3 FM, 101.5 FM,
97.7 FM





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 **Rupert Holleman** (Friend of Denny Smith) who is very ill.

Prayers for **Annabelle's son and family** who are struggling through a difficult time.

Prayers for **Olive Doty** who is recovering at home.

Prayers for **Jack Kessinger** (Barbara Huneke's brother-in-law) who is being treated for lung cancer.

Prayers for **unborn twin children** of a teacher friend of Beth Murphy's.

Prayers for **Heather** (Pastor Shawn's daughter) who is having some issues with her MS.

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

Prayers for **Samantha Anderson** (the one year old daughter of Melissa Palestro's friend Michele) who is recovering from a traumatic brain injury.

Prayers for **Karen Sheer** who is recovering from surgery.

Prayers for **Dan Baker** (Debi Tyger) who is struggling with health issues.

Prayers for **Vicki** (Chesney's mom) who is struggling with health issues.

Prayers for **Dennis** (Barbara Komondorea's friend) who is struggling with health issues.

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

Prayers for **Bob Belton** who is struggling with health issues.

Prayers for **Edith Provencher** (Donna Sheak's mother) who is struggling with health issues.

Prayers for **Alan & Ruth Arnfield** (Evelyn Frank's parents) who are struggling with health issues.

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

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

Prayers for **John & Jane Barden** who are struggling with health issues.

Prayers for **Carl Freiberg** who is struggling with health issues.

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

Prayers for **Wylee Marie Spera** (granddaughter of Frank & Cindy Spera).

Prayers for **Sandy Holdiman** (Jack Smith's sister) who is battling cancer.

Prayers for **Georgina Sorcie** (friend of Brian Franks) who is battling cancer.

Prayers for **Louava Traver** (Don Traver's sister-in-law) who is battling cancer.

Prayers for **Shirley Kinne** (Steve's sister) who is battling cancer.

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** who is battling cancer.

Prayers for **Pattie Thomas** (Judy Brandow's cousin) who is battling cancer.

Prayers for **Jean Armstrong** who is battling cancer.

Prayers for **Gina Beckman** who is battling cancer.

Sympathy prayers for **Warren Wigsten and family** on the death of his sister, Eleanor Browning.

Sympathy prayers for **Dick Walker and family** on the death of his brother, J.B. Walker.

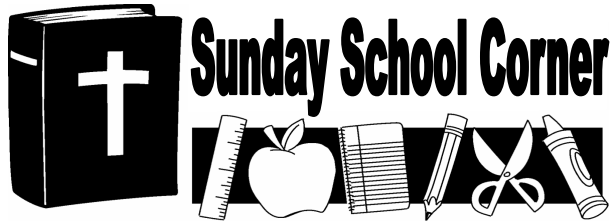
Sympathy prayers for **Rachel Murphy** (niece of Jean Albrecht) who lost her father suddenly.

Sympathy prayers for **Edie Aspbury** on the unexpected death of her daughter.

But those who hope
in the Lord will
Renew their strength.
They will soar
on wings like eagles;
they will run
and not grow weary, they will
walk and not be faint.

 A black silhouette of an eagle in flight, wings spread wide, positioned to the right of the text.

I S A I A H 4 0 : 3 1



By Melissa Palestro, CE Coordinator
 PVChristianEd@gmail.com

Youth Group

Youth group will have a brief meeting Sunday, February 2 after Souper Bowl of Caring and before the Confirmation Class Informational Meeting.



Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class



Confirmation class begins February 2. All eligible students should have received information. If we've forgotten someone or you know a youth in grades 9-12 who would like to join the class please contact Pastor Shawn, Melissa, or the church office.

Classroom Relocation

Due to the Sanctuary renovations, the Preschool and Pre-K class has relocated to the third floor. Parents of children in this class should pick their children up on the third floor after church each Sunday.



Youth Group Talent Show

Save the date! The Youth Group will be sponsoring a Talent Show on Saturday, March 22. The show is open to any church member with a talent. Come sing, dance, play an instrument, do magic, juggle, tell jokes, any talent you'd like to share with the church. Look for more information in the March Pres.



Installation & Ordination

On Sunday, February 9th we will install & ordain our new officers.



250th Anniversary Celebration!

Anniversary Committee Meeting
Monday, February 3rd
at 9:00 am
In the Church Parlor

Women, Men, Children!!



In preparation for the 2015 Anniversary Cookbook, we are starting to collect recipes (both old and new) to show historical changes in cooking. If you have any recipes you would like to share please put them in the "recipe box" at the bottom of the stairs in Chester Husted fellowship hall by June 1st.

Thank you!
 Cookbook committee
 (Jean Albrecht, Joyce Brower,
 Barbara Huneke, & Tracy Keck)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
PVN = Pleasant Valley Cooperative Nursery School			All church events are in Bold.			1 10 - 1 pm Bargain Basement
2 9:30 am Worship, Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:00 am Confirmation Class & Youth Group 11:10 Bible Study	3 8 - 3 pm PVN 9:00 am Anniversary Comm. Mtg 6:15 pm Stamping Class 7 pm Bell Choir	4 8 - 3 pm PVN 7:30 pm NA	5 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 - 1 Bargain Basement 7 pm Prayer 101	6 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 am Coffee & Conversation 5:45 pm Jr Choir 6:00 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm Sr Choir	7 8 - 3 pm PVN	8 10 - 1 pm Bargain Basement 5 pm Deaf Club
9 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11:10 Bible Study 1 pm Stamping Class	10 8 - 3 pm PVN 7 pm Bell Choir	11 12 8 - 3 pm PVN 3:30 - 5 pm & 7 pm Girl Scouts 4:00 pm Homeless Shelter Meal 7:30 pm NA	12 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 - 1 Bargain Basement 7 pm Trustees Mtg 7:30 pm Lyme Disease Grp	13 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 am Coffee & Conversation 5:45 pm Jr Choir 6:30 pm Jr Grange 7 pm Sr Choir	14 closed PVN 11:00 am PW Bible Study 6:30 pm Stamping with Lisa	15 10 - 1 pm Bargain Basement
16 9:30 am Worship & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11:10 Bible Study	17 PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED closed PVN 7 pm Bell Choir	18 closed PVN 9:00 am Friendship Callers 7:30 pm NA	19 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 - 1 pm Bargain Basement 7 pm Session Meeting	20 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 am Coffee & Conversation 5:45 pm Jr Choir 7 pm Sr Choir	21 8 - 3 pm PVN	22 10 - 1 pm Bargain Basement
23 9:30 am Worship & Church School 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:10 Bible Study	24 8 - 3 pm PVN 7 pm Bell Choir	25 8 - 3 pm PVN 3:30 - 5 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm NA	26 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 - 1 pm Bargain Basement 7 pm Prayer 101	27 28 8 - 3 pm PVN 10 am Coffee & Conversation 5:45 pm Jr Choir 6:30 pm Jr Grange 7 pm Sr Choir	28 8 - 3 pm PVN 11:00 am PW Bible Study 7 - 9 pm Youth Group Movie Night	

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

Debi Tyger 677-4307
 Richard Walker 635-2906
 Gary Murphy 868-7298
 Jerry Conklin 635-8178
 Judy Brandow 635-2045
 Edith Keck 635-8413
 Kenneth Brands 632-1714



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
 First Presbyterian Church
 PO Box 664, 1576 Main St.
 Pleasant Valley, NY 12569