

# ***PRES***

## ***DECEMBER 2019***





Dear Friends,

**Interim Ministry is a funny thing.** When a pastor leaves after a long pastorate, the Presbytery often advises a church to engage the services of an interim minister to walk alongside them while the search for the next permanent minister unfolds. That is the work I have been engaged in with you over the past 14 months and hope to continue with you well into 2020.

The Presbytery provides a form for the Search Committee to prepare for the Interim Pastor search. The committee that brought me here to Pleasant Valley wrote the following in their search document:

**We desire to have an Interim Pastor who will help us analyze these areas, and determine what resistance/barriers might be holding us back.**

**In all areas, we need to risk change while also celebrating and building on our heritage.**

As I look back on our year+ of ministry together, I see many areas where we are

**“risking change while also celebrating and building.”** Let me list a few:



- The Nominating Committee is asking folks about serving second terms because of the recent change in our by-laws that allows for that. Many who have been asked have expressed reservations that they should instead step aside for someone else to serve. There are few others to ask. Change is hard.
- The group of children we regularly see in worship this year range from 6 months to 3 years. We only occasionally have an older child or two. We've committed this year to including our littles in our worship space and are trying to address the issues that are arising from that commitment. Change is hard.

- I continue to hear feedback that people would like for me to be in my office more of the time. This is a big change for all churches and one that is only going to continue in the future: you can expect that any pastor you call will likely work some from home and have office hours in the local coffee shop. They should not be spending time sitting in the church building but instead be out and about in the community. Change is hard.
- We continue trying different styles of music and adding more music to our already music-rich worship services. We want to include more contemporary-sounding music but still value our rich musical heritage and our traditional choir. Change is hard.

**Change is  
neither  
good or bad,  
it simply is.**

Change **IS** hard and tiring. How are you managing the stress of change, both in your own life or, here, in our common church life? Where do you see possibilities for risking change? What resistance or barriers are holding us back?

Part of the work of the interim time in a congregation is to take a hard look at “how we’ve always done things” and see where good change might be called for. Change is hard. Hang in there! God is with us. Merry Christmas!

In Christ together,  
Rev. Lynn Brown



The Session did not meet in November.

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Pastor Lynn's Office Hours for December

Cell phone/text: 518-755-4940 email: [lkbrown27@gmail.com](mailto:lkbrown27@gmail.com)

Office hours **by appointment. Please check before coming and not finding her!**

Tuesday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and Wednesday 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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**CHURCH OFFICERS 2019**

<b>SESSION</b>		
<b>ELDERS (Ruling Body of the Church)</b>		
Rev. Lynn Brown - Moderator		
<b>CLASS OF 2019</b>	<b>CLASS OF 2020</b>	<b>CLASS OF 2021</b>
Judy Brandow	Chesney Baker	Bill Miller
Edith Keck	Myung Sung	James Sawner
Gary Murph	Karen Sheer	Helen Traver
		Hope Murphy (Youth)
Clerk – Marilyn Brands		
<b>TRUSTEES</b>		
<b>(Take Care of the Physical Plant)</b>		
Andy Albrecht	Debbie Traver	Caroline Dolfi
Tracy Keck	Karen Haight	Donna Sheak
Philip Keck	Linda Halliday	Denny Smith
<b>DEACONS</b>		
<b>(The Service Body of the Church)</b>		
Barbara Huneke	Amanda Smith	Steve Albrecht Sr
Richard Moysey	Tom Smith	Dawne Fay
Jack Smith	Pat Zerbe	Faith Reynolds

Church Treasurer: Wayne Sauer

Mission Treasurers: David Brands and Wayne Sauer

Bargain Basement: Jean Albrecht, Director 845-635-3563

Friendship Callers: Joan Smith, Chairperson 845-635-3687

For numbers of Chairpersons not listed, please refer to the church directory or call the church office at 845-635-3289.

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Beth Murphy, CE Coordinator [murphygba@aol.com](mailto:murphygba@aol.com) 845-868-7298(h) 845-242-0325 (C)

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## ***Friendship Callers***

Friendship Callers will be visiting shut-ins on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Visitation is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, we meet in the Yellow Room at 9:30am. If you are interested in joining this group or have any questions, please see Joan Smith or call her at 635-3687.



We like to take a tin of holiday cookies for each person we visit. If you can help by making some homemade cookies for us to take, it would be appreciated. Please have to the church by Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!!

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## **Holiday Auction Report**

This year's Holiday Auction made a profit of \$6,186.00. The breakdown was as follows:

Live Auction	\$5,057.50	Food	\$181.00
Silent Auction	\$ 843.00	Donations	\$220.00
		Misc.	\$ 65.50

This successful event was a result of much work by many people. We would especially like to thank Lisa Wendell and Debbie Traver who, along with many elves spent countless hours at church (many performing multiple tasks) sorting and organizing items and making decisions on how to best display items for the Live and Silent Auctions. Our auctioneer, Don Traver, kept up a brisk pace and entertained the crowd while encouraging people to bid. We could not have had an auction without those who donated items and gift certificates, those who made the delicious refreshments, & those who came to bid.

The \$181.00 that was received from refreshments was donated to the Pleasant Valley food pantry.

**Thank you, thank you one and all!**



Please keep these people in your daily prayers.

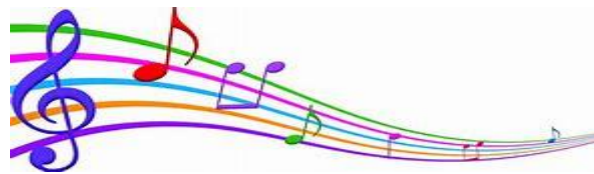
Prayers of the People

- Prayers for Scott Coy (Merle Coy's son) who is battling cancer.
Prayers for Dick Haight who is dealing with the side effects from radiation treatment.
Prayers for Mark Kovacs (friend of Steve & Jean Albrecht) who has eye issues.
Prayers of sympathy for the family of Dorothy (Dort) Traver on her passing.
Prayers of sympathy for Pat Zerbe on the passing of her brother, Jesse.
Prayers for all those who struggle with mental illness.
Prayers of sympathy for the Murphy family on the passing of Jim Killmer (Beth's father).
Prayers for Richard (friend of Phyllis Menzenski's daughter) who has broken ribs after a fall.
Prayers for Patty (Wayne Sauer's sister-in-law) whose brother died suddenly.
Prayers for a young friend of Ashley Keck with another reoccurrence of cancer, responding to a new treatment.
Prayers for Jim Tyger who received a good report after his last MRI.
Prayers for Elaine (Wayne Sauer's sister) whose is doing well and returning to work.
Prayers for Eileen (friend of the Sauers) who is responding well to a new treatment regimen.
Prayers for Nate, a 14 yr old boy paralyzed as a result of accident, who has had a setback.
Prayers for Adam, paralyzed as a result of accident, is beginning to regain some feeling in his legs.
Prayers for Charlotte (a baby born with complications) is doing well.
Prayers for Cindy Cervone (whose children attend Missy Sauer's school who is going to rehab at Helen Hayes.
Prayers for Bernadette and Bruce Cookinham who are dealing with health issues.
Prayers for Helen (Beth Murphy's aunt) who has a brain bleed after a recent fall.
Prayers for Hillary McAllister (friend of Dawne Fay) who is battling brain cancer.

Living with cancer: Ginny Hankamp (friend of Donna Sheak's), Penny Sawner (James's mother), Chris Woodward (Harriet Mark's brother), Mike Mikula (Joyce Brower's brother-in-law).

Ongoing health issues: Anna Purdy, Nick Becker (Karen Haight's grandson), Elsie and Ruthie (Judy Brandow's sisters-in-law), Peggy (Beth Murphy's cousin), Donna Mears, Bill Owen (Alta & Jerry's son-in-law), Carol Belton, Rick Fay, Richard Joseph (Mary Jane Gardner's brother), Edith & Dave (Donna Sheak's parents)

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CHRISTMAS MUSIC

"Away in the Manger" will probably be chosen by one of you as being your FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CAROL. Think about your favorite carol and submit the title: Blue book or Red book, title and page to the office by December 8th! The Conklins will organize them and we will sing as many as possible on "Carol Sunday," December 29th.

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## **ADAMS GIFT CARDS**

It is always a good time to support our church! It is always a good time to shop at Adams! Do both by participating in the Adams gift card fundraiser. See Helen Traver on Sundays or Joyce or Linda in the church office to purchase a \$25, \$50 or \$100 gift card. Then go shopping or give the card as a gift. It is that simple.

We have been doing this fundraiser for over eight years. Sincere thanks to all who have faithfully participated over the years. Every sale DOES make a difference in the life of our church.

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## **New office computer**

Thanks to many hours spent by Wayne Sauer we now have our new computer set up in the office with all files and programs transferred.

Thank you Wayne!!

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# Wreath making



December dates are Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> - 6:00pm - 9:00pm  
Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> - 9:00am - 12:00pm  
Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> - 6:00pm - 9:00pm  
Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> - 9:00am - 12:00pm  
Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> (after worship service)

If you can work part of a shift on any of these dates, please feel free to join us for a grand adventure. Bring a friend, new helpers are always welcome. We can instruct you in the fine art of wreath making, clipping greens, bunching greens or decorating. There are jobs for everyone. If you have clippers or pruners, please bring them with you. Gloves are a plus. We have a great deal of fun, fellowship

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## Homemade Christmas Cookies

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

## Freshly made Beef Chili Served with Cornbread



Saturday in December - 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>  
10:30 am – 12:30pm

Made by the local 4H Beef Club *“Here comes the Beef”*

# LUNCH BOX UPDATE

As we have entered the Advent Season and are encouraged to think of ways we can bring hope to the world, I want to thank everyone who faithfully support the donations to the Lunch Box every month.

As I spoke with the new representative who is in charge of food prep and food collection, she wanted me to express her appreciation for our continued support. I did not realize this program offers an after-school program for youth at risk. In addition to serving up to 120 men and women each day at lunch and dinner hour. I've seen the many faces of these people when dropping off the food and the need is great.

I hope we can continue to supply this food in 2020 and perhaps help serve at some time. If you are willing to continue with the contribution you are already bringing please let me know. At this time, we also need a few more people to bring five pounds of Ziti each month if you would like to begin helping out.

Thanks so much for all you have done.

Peace and Hope to all,

Karen Haight



Thank you to all who contributed to the Homeless Shelter Meal this year. Whether you helped by providing items needed for the casserole and salad, baked cookies, helped prepare the meal or helped to serve it. Your generosity and time were sincerely appreciated by the people at the shelter.

Please note: Do not bring items for the Homeless Shelter Meal until further notice!

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# UPCOMING SERVICES

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## *Blue Christmas A Service of Comfort and Healing*

*Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in our Sanctuary*

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## *CHRISTMAS EVE TABLEAU*



*CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7:00 p.m.*

*A few people are still needed for this service. If you can help please call the Conklins at 845-635-8178.*



# December 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>6</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>7</b>
				6:00pm Pound Exer (FH) 6:30pm Boy Scouts (BR) <b>7:00pm Sr Choir</b>	5:30-8 Tien Tao (FH) <b>6-9pm Wreathmaking</b>	8:30am TienTao(Chapel) <b>9-12 Wreathmaking</b> <b>10-1 Barg Bsmt</b> 10am Tai Chi 10:30- 12:30 Chili
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>10</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>11</b> 8-1:00 PVN d	<b>12</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>13</b> 8-1:00 PVN	<b>14</b>
9:30 am <b>WORSHIP</b> 11:00 am <b>Deacon's Mtg</b>  2-4pm – CMV (FH)	6pm Stamping/Jean (YR) 6pm Pound Ex(FH) <b>6 PM Personnel</b> <b>7 pm Session</b>	5:30-8 Tien Tao (FH) <b>7:00pm Trustees</b> 7:30 pm NA (YR)	<b>10-1 Bargain Bsmt</b> 5:30-8 Tien Tao (Chpl) 6:30pm Grange Dinner 7:15pm Girl Scout (BR) 7:30pm Lyme Disease (YR)	6pm Pound Exr (FH) 6:30 Boy Scouts <b>7 pm Senior Choir</b>	5:30-8 Tien Tao  <b>6-9pm Wreathmaking</b>	8:30-9:30 Tien Tao <b>9-12 Wreathmaking</b> 10am Tai Chi - Chapel <b>10-1 Barg Bsmt</b> <b>10-1 Cookie Sale (FH)</b> 10:30- 12:30 Chili
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> PVN 8-1:00	<b>17</b> PVN 8-	<b>18</b> PVN 8-1:00	<b>19</b> PVN 8-1:00	<b>20</b> PVN 8-1:00	<b>21</b>
9:30am <b>WORSHIP</b> 12-2pm <b>Wreathmaking</b>	6pm Pound Ex (FH)	9:30 am <b>Friendship Callers</b>  5:30-8 Tien Tao 7:30 pm N.A.	<b>10-1 Bargain Bsmt</b>  5:30-8 Tien Tao <b>7 pm Service of Comfort</b>	6pm Pound Exer (FH) <b>7 pm Senior Choir</b>	5:30-8 Tien Tao	8:30-9:30 Tien Tao <b>10-1 Bargain Bsmt</b> 10am Tai Chi - Chapel 10:30- 12:30 Chili Sale
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Closed PVN	<b>24</b> Closed PVN	<b>25</b> Closed PVN	<b>26</b> Closed PVN	<b>27</b> Closed PVN	<b>28</b>
9:30 am <b>WORSHIP -</b>	6pm Pound Ex(FH)	7pm – Christmas Eve Svc 7:30 pm NA	<i>Merry Christmas</i> 	6pm Pound Exer (FH)	5:30-8 Tien Tao	8:30am TienTao(FH)  10am Tai Chi
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Closed PVN	<b>31</b> Closed PVN				
9:30 am <b>WORSHIP/ CAROL SUNDAY</b>	6pm Pound Ex(FH)	5:30-8 Tien Tao 7:30 pm NA				

