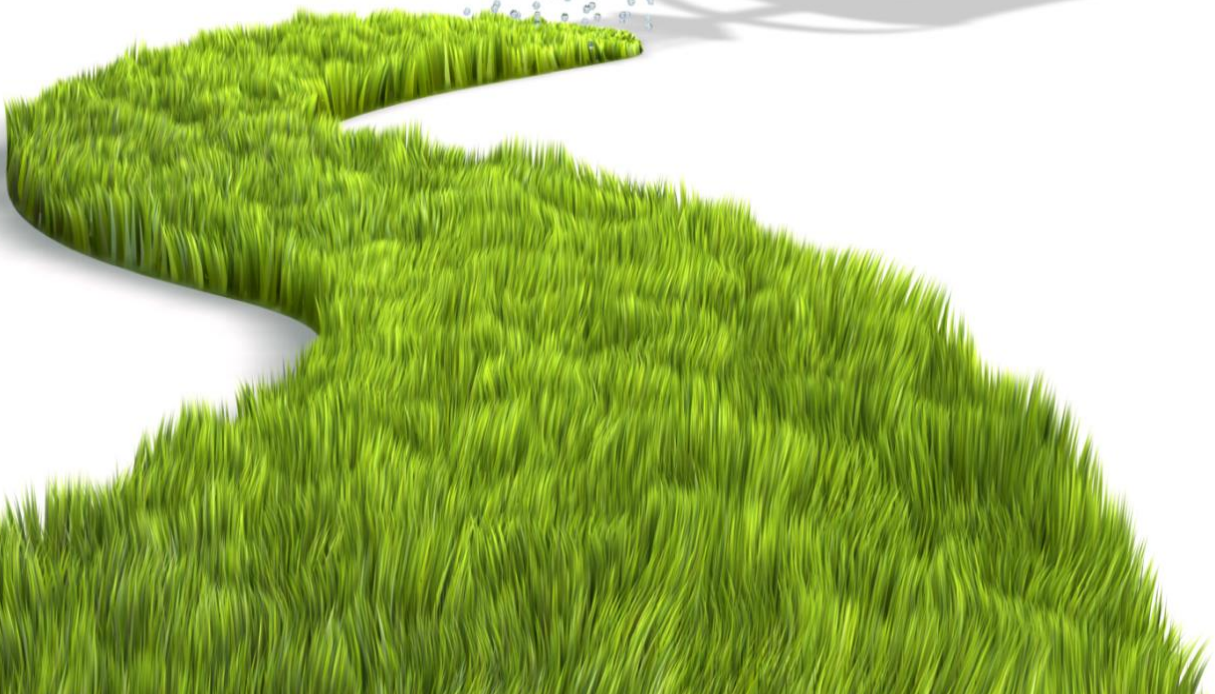
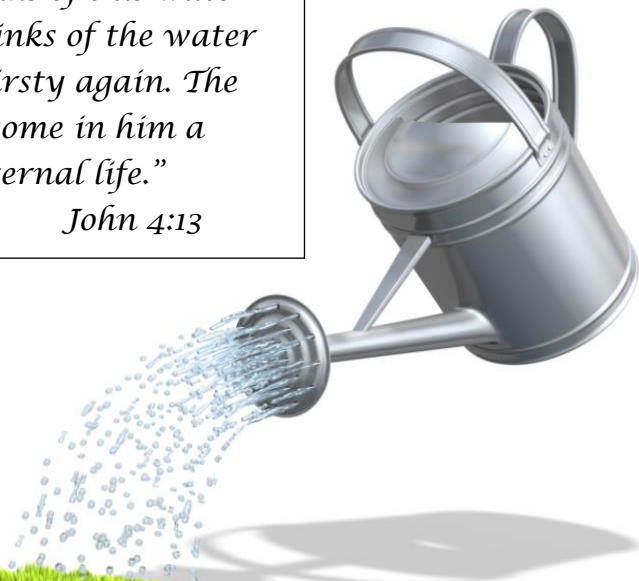


FEBRUARY

PRES

Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 4:13



Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

The scriptures tell us:

“Be still and KNOW that I am God”

Psalm 46:10

Now, I don't know about you, but the past few months have been so busy that I have dropped exhausted into my chair nearly every evening. On more than one occasion, intending to spend some quiet time with the LORD, I faithfully opened my Bible and began my prayer meditation, only to be awakened by a thumping sound as my Bible or devotional book fell to the floor. Scooping from the floor, that which is sacred for me, I clutched my Bible, made my apologies to God and fell into bed.

When I awoke in the morning, I was overcome with guilt because I had not been “faithful” to my promise to God and had not spent as much time in study as I would have liked. Trying to make up for our short session at night, I elongated my study in the morning, said my prayers and left the house a little later than usual.

While pondering why the past two weeks had seemed so difficult, I realized that I was so busy being a “worker bee” - a Martha (like so many of you - ahem) that I had not taken the time to be a “Mary” first. You see, in order for me to have the energy to carry out effective pastoral ministry, I **NEED** to spend time with God, to read God's word and to listen for God's voice through the moving of the Holy Spirit. The scriptures strengthen me and guide my daily living. I cannot imagine how awful it must be to find them meaningless, or never to have exposure to God's Word - they (God's words) and Jesus (the living Word) excite me and energize my life. Combined they give meaning and hope.

Several of you have shared how difficult it is for you make time to sit with God. We have that in common, but the importance of making the time to read God's word and listen for God's guidance is paramount to living a Christian life, and to be effective witnesses for Jesus Christ. I implore you to make the time. ***Get to know God on a personal level. Become friends.*** The Holy Spirit is an excellent author - read God's word, for in and through God's Word, both the written and the Living Word you **will** find refreshment and new life.

Come and join us at Prayer Partners as we explore ways to keep in touch with God in our ever changing, fast paced world. Come pray with us, as we seek a closer relationship with the Lord. Our church needs “prayer warriors.” We meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Shawn



1. Pastor Shawn reported on members who are sick. The baptism of Haylie Raine Powers will take place on January 29.
2. Clerk Marilyn Brands presented the Statistical Report for General Assembly for 2016, which was approved by Session.
3. Session approved the 2017 Budget as presented by the Finance Committee.
4. Personnel Committee Chairperson Mary Jane Gardner reported that her committee recommends Linda Morey and Joyce Brower to the position of Secretary/Office Manager. They will be sharing the duties. This was approved by Session.
5. Stewardship Committee Chairperson Linda Morey reported that 52 pledges have been received. \$107,692 has been pledged to the Local Budget and \$14,196 has been pledged for Mission, for a total of \$121,888.
6. Christian Education Coordinator requested permission to hold a Date Night for parents of young children, hosted by the senior high class, on February 11. This was approved by Session.
7. Worship Committee Chairperson Phyllis Menzenski assigned elders to administer Communion on February 5.
8. Nominating Chairperson Greg Clark reported that we have an open position on Deacons, and an open position on Trustees. An appeal will be made at the annual congregational meeting to fill these positions.
9. In New Business, possible fundraisers for 2017 were discussed.

Welcome to New Staff

The position of "Office Manager" is now filled by Joyce Brower and Linda Morey. They are sharing the hours and responsibilities between them. The new office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Wednesday will be their day off. The office email remains the same: pvpresby@gmail.com. Let's make them feel welcome. Joyce and Linda -- Welcome aboard !!

Budget Report from Annual Meeting

At the annual congregational meeting held on January 22, Treasurer Wayne Sauer reported that our ending balance for the year 2016 was a surplus of \$14,815. After beginning the year with a budget deficit of \$21,046, this was a remarkable accomplishment. The difference is the result of additional giving in 2016: new pledges, increased pledges, and donations beyond pledges. We thank this congregation for their faith-filled financial support for our church. While we are beginning 2017 with a deficit budget, this surplus puts us in a much stronger position than we were in last year.

Several members commented on the increased giving in the budget line “per capita apportionment,” which reflects members who paid the fee that is sent to Presbytery for each member on our Active Member roll. This fee of \$34.10 sounds small for one member, but the cost to our church for membership is over \$6,000. For every member who is able to pay their own apportionment, that expense is lessened. There is an envelope in your box of offering envelopes for this purpose.

Per capita apportionment is paid to the Presbytery of Hudson River to cover the costs of Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly operating costs. We thank you for considering a contribution.

Adams Gift Card Program

I am asking each of you to consider supporting our church by participating in the Adams Gift Card Program. This year-long fundraiser requires no extra money and only a few minutes of your time. Simply see Helen Traver or stop by the church office during business hours, to purchase a \$25, \$50 or \$100 Adams gift card. Adams generously gives us additional cards for 10% of our bulk order. We raise our money when you purchase your cards from the church.

There are plenty of things to buy at Adams in February - Valentine's Day flowers and special treats, fresh food, bird food and even snow shovels. I thank you, and the Finance Committee will appreciate the boost to our budget.

I hope to see you soon. Thank you for your support.

Helen Traver



CHURCH OFFICERS 2017

SESSION

ELDERS (Ruling Body of the Church)

Pastor Shawn – Moderator

845-723-4419 (H) 845-797-7144 (C)

CLASS OF 2017	CLASS OF 2018	CLASS OF 2019
Roland Neumann	Mary Jane Gardner	Judy Brandow
Karen Sheer	Phyllis Menzenski	Edith Keck
Pat Zerbe	Kim Daley	Gary Murphy

Clerk – Marilyn Brands

TRUSTEES

(Take Care of the Physical Plant)

Frank Mears	Caroline Dolfi	Andy Albrecht
Debbie Traver	Rick Fay	Tracy Keck
Steve Traver	Don Traver	open

DEACONS

(The Service Body of the Church)

Dawne Fay	Steve Albrecht	Barbara Huneke
Tom Smith	Kathi Clark	Richard Moysey
Myung Sung	Traci Haight	Jack Smith
Youth - Amanda Smith		

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.



**WE ARE PRAYER PARTNERS
COME AND PRAY WITH US**

We invite you to join the **Prayer Partners** as we pray for the needs of our church and the world.

We seek to learn more about the power of prayer, to grow in faith, and become closer to the LORD.

Prayer Partners meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor.

This month's meeting is the 22ND of Feb

Prayers for **Sue McGinnis** (a friend of Marilyn Brands) who is being treated for cancer.

Prayers for **Vikki Caswell** (Chesney Baker's mother) who is in Room 671 (W) Vassar.

Prayers for **George Jackel** (a friend of Pat Zerbe) who is battling cancer.

Prayers for **Fred Albrecht** (Steve Albrecht's brother) who is at home recovering.

Prayers for **Bertha Howe** (member) who is home struggling with health issues.

Prayers for **Fannie Telfer** (member) as she is at home recovering.

Prayers for **Danielle Monaco** (a friend of Debi Tyger) who is struggling with health issues.

Prayers for **Edith & Dave** (member Donna Sheak's parents) who are struggling with health issues.

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

Prayers for **Jack Kessinger** (Barbara Huneke's brother-in-law) whose cancer is in remission.

Prayers for **David Brands** (member) who is struggling with health issues.

Prayers for **Richard Callameri** who is doing well recovering from severe burns.

Prayers for **Sue Moore** who is struggling with health issues.

Prayers for **Betty Palmquist** (member) who is struggling with health issues.

Prayers for **Wayne Tyger** (brother of Jim Tyger) diagnosed with Hodgkins lymphoma.

Prayers for **Conor Behan** (great nephew of Jack & Joan Smith) who is struggling with illness.

Prayers for **Anita Wolf** (member Roxanne Wolf's Mother) who is struggling with health issues.

Prayers for **Bud Winters** (member Donna Sheak's brother-in-law) who is struggling with health issues.

Prayers for **Jane Barden** (member) who is struggling with health issues but is home.

Sympathy prayers for the **Mark** family for the loss of Irena Morse who rejoined her Creator.

Sympathy prayers for the Ritchie family as **Nan Ritchie** has rejoined her Creator.

Sympathy prayers for **Holohan-Guarneri** family at the loss of Charlie who has rejoined his Creator.

Lutheran Care Center Long Term Care

Prayers for **Dort Traver** (member) who is in the Lutheran Care Center, Room 111a South



HOMELESS SHELTER MEAL

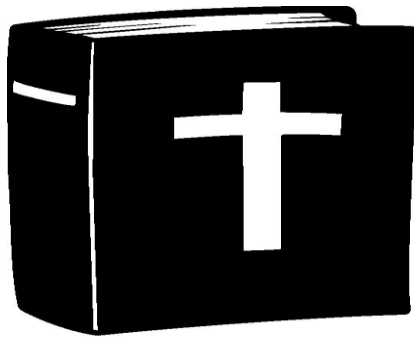
PW will be preparing and serving the meal on Tuesday, February 14th.

The signup sheet for donating items for the meal is located on the table in the Husted Fellowship Hall. We are still in need of some items for the bimonthly meals. Please check the list and help if you can; we still have spots for contributions of cooked chicken, canned cream of chicken and mushroom soups, for the salad – lettuce and other veggies (onion, cucumbers, shredded carrot, etc.) and ranch dressing. We need 16-17 dozen cookies for the dessert, please consider providing 2-3 dozen cookies if you are able. Donated items must be in the church kitchen no later than noon of the day of meal. Monetary donations are accepted to help with the cost of miscellaneous items. Thank you for your continuing generosity in helping those in need. Any questions see Linda Morey or call 226-6402.

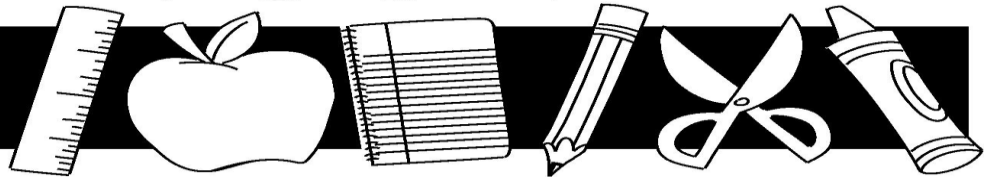


AIKMAN BELL TOWER FUND

Our church has received \$2000 from the estate of Eiluned Aikman in order to start a fund in memory of Tom and Eiluned Aikman. Session has proposed that this fund be devoted to the reparation of the bell tower and restoration of the decorative trim to its original appearance. This project (approved at the congregational meeting) has been estimated to cost \$24,000. The congregation is invited to contribute. Please direct your giving to the First Presbyterian Church, Aikman-Bell Tower fund.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Valentine Parent's Night Out 2017

Cost: \$10.00 per child
Ages 3-12

Saturday

February 4, 2017

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Bring your child to the Husted Fellowship Hall on Saturday
night
for pizza, games, fun and a movie.

Save yourself babysitting costs. We will feed them, entertain them,
and send them home ready for bed.

Enjoy an evening out knowing your child is in good hands.

Sponsored by:
The Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Christian Education Department
and the Youth Group

Reservations are required as space is limited to 15 children.
845-635-3289

Email: pvpresby@gmail.com pvce1765@gmail.com

Beth Murphy, CE Coordinator

murphygba@aol.com

[845-868-7298 \(h\)](tel:845-868-7298)

[845-242-0325 \(c\)](tel:845-242-0325)



SAVE THE DATES

Free Spaghetti Dinners scheduled for March 25 and April 22.

More information to follow

February 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 8-1 PVN 10-1 Bargain Basement 10-1 BB	2 8-1 PVN 10 am C & C 6pm Jr Choir 6:30p Jr Grange & Boy Scouts 7pm Sr Choir	3 8-1 PVN	4 10-1 Bargain Basement 5:30-8:30pm Valentine Parent's Night Out
5 Holy Communion Souper Bowl of Caring 11:10 am Bible Study	6 8-1 PVN 6 pm Stamping with Jean 7pm Bell Choir	7 8-1 PVN 7:30p N.A.	8 8-1 PVN 10-1 Bargain Basement 10-1 BB 7:30p Lyme	9 8-1 PVN 10 am C & C 6pm Jr Choir 6:30p Jr Grange 7pm Sr Choir	10 8-1 PVN 11 am PW Bible Study 6:30 pm stamping with Lisa 6-9 Wreath making	11 10-1 Bargain Basement 5pm Deaf Club
12 Worship 11:10 am Bible Study	13 8-1 PVN 7pm Bell Choir	14 8-1 PVN 4:45pm -PW Homeless Shelter Meal 7p Trustee Mtg 7:30p N.A.	15 8-1 PVN 10-1 Bargain Basement 7pm Session	16 8-1 PVN 10 am C & C 9:30 -2 Dutchess Quilters 6pm Jr Choir 7pm Sr Choir	17 8-1 PVN	18 10-1 Bargain Basement
19 Worship 11:10 am Bible Study	20 OFFICE CLOSED No bell choir	21 8-1 PVN 9:30am Friendship Callers 7:30p N.A.	22 8-1 PVN 10-1 Bargain Basement 7pm Prayer	23 8-1 PVN 10 am C & C 6pm Jr Choir 6:30p Jr Grange 7pm Sr Choir	24 8-1 PVN 11 am PW Bible Study	25 10-1 Bargain Basement 10-1 BB
26 Worship 11:10 am Bible Study	27 8-1 PVN 7pm Bell Choir	28 8-1 PVN 7:30p N.A.				