



# Pleasantville News

PLEASANTVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Celebrating the Adventure  
Continuing the Journey

November 2011

## November at Pleasantville . . .

### Sunday, November 6 - *All Saints' and Blanket Sunday and Special Sunday in Church School*

- 8:00 a.m. Meditative Chapel Service
- 8:30 a.m. Prophets' Bible Study Class
- 9:30 a.m. Main Service and Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Adult Education Program
- 6:00 p.m. AfterGlow and Club 345
- 6:45 p.m. Adult Confirmation Class

### Sunday, November 13 - *33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

- 8:00 a.m. Meditative Chapel Service
- 8:30 a.m. Prophets' Bible Study Class
- 9:30 a.m. Main Service and Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Adult Education Program

### Sunday, November 20 - *Consecration Sunday*

- 8:00 a.m. Meditative Chapel Service
- 8:30 a.m. Prophets' Bible Study Class
- 9:30 a.m. Main Service and Church School
- 6:00 p.m. AfterGlow and Club 345
- 6:45 p.m. Adult Confirmation Class

### Sunday, November 27 - *First Sunday of Advent and Communion Sunday*

- 8:00 a.m. Meditative Chapel Service
- 8:30 a.m. Prophets' Bible Study Class
- 9:30 a.m. Main Service and Church School
- 11:00 a.m. Advent Family Party and Decorating

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Hilary Barrett
Associate Pastor	Rev. Amelie Sell
Minister of Visitation	Rev. Dr. Paul Ritter
President	Donna Wright
Minister of Music	Debbie Mangham
Office Manager	Diane Scheller
Church School Coord.	Kathy Vitantonio
Director of Pre-School	Janet Lamb
Church Office	215-822-2394
E-mail	churchoffice@pleasantvilleucc.org

### COMING EVENTS AND NEWS!

**Caregivers Group** to begin in November. Meetings will be held the first Friday of each month. See page 10 for details.

**Pleasantville Adult Day Fellowship** will meet on Tuesday, November 8 at 11:30 a.m. for their monthly meeting. See page 9 for program details.

**It's Shoebox time again!** See page 9 for details on the Operation Christmas Child Annual Collection. Deadline for bringing in shoeboxes is November 20.

**The Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Worship Service** will be held this year at Pleasantville Church. Families with children are encouraged to join us. Please invite your friends and neighbors! See page 7.

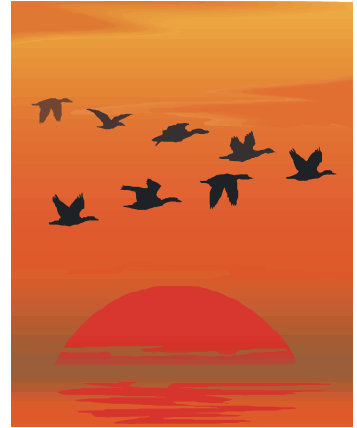
Visit our website at [www.pleasantvilleucc.org](http://www.pleasantvilleucc.org) for Pleasantville events, calendar, and the newsletter. Check the website for inclement weather cancellations.



**FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR . . .****Flying in Formation**

The geese have captured my imagination this fall. I'm fortunate: they do not have a habit of camping out on my lawn so I can simply enjoy them without dealing with their...um...signature calling card.

I love the way they look – on the ground, on the water, in the air. I love the way they sound overhead. I love how they make their seasonal pilgrimage. I love what we know and what we don't know about how they navigate. They are very cool creatures.



But the thing I like the best about these critters is how they work together: when they fly in that distinctive “V” formation, they fly seventy percent faster than a single goose flying on its own. Apparently, formation flight of birds improves aerodynamic efficiency to such an extent that the group traveling together is much more efficient than the single bird alone.<sup>1</sup> The lead bird does the hard work of cutting through the resistant air while the other birds flying closely behind benefit from the work of the leader.

Leadership is hard work – everywhere – whether it's leading a flock of geese or a group of people. Leadership in the Church is no exception to this. It requires of us enormous energies – time, wisdom, compassion, and sacrificial love. We are blessed here at Pleasantville to have wonderful leaders – on our Council, in our Committees, and in countless ways serving throughout the life of the church in visible and invisible ways. Leadership is one of the most important gifts of Spirit-led discipleship that we can offer to the Church. And like the aerodynamic efficiency of a flock of geese, the Church flies faster in formation. We can cover more ground together than we can on our own.

There's one more thing that I like about geese besides their efficiency in flight, and that is the fact that leadership is shared. The lead bird drops back when he or she tires and another one takes their place. So it is must be in the Church. We need strong leaders to fly at the head of the flock. But leadership in a community must be shared so that every leader gets a chance to rest.

The Nominating Committee has been hard at work identifying new and gifted leaders in our midst. With a new calendar year comes a new opportunity for leadership here at Pleasantville, and an influx of new leaders to help us fly with grace and speed.

Perhaps the Spirit is calling you to take your turn.

Pastor Hilary

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<sup>1</sup> Browne Barr, *High Flying Geese: Unexpected Reflections on the Church and Its Ministry*. (NY: The Seabury Press 1983)

# Christian Education News . . .

## Blanket the World with Love . . .

For over 60 years, Church World Service has worked in partnership with local communities to identify both their needs and their access to resources necessary in building the foundation for a more viable future, including: blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster; tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields; wells for families living in drought-prone areas to provide clean, potable water and water to irrigate crops and gardens; literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential.



On Sunday, November 6 our children will learn about Blanket Sunday and the services provided by CWS. To put their faith into action, we are asking the children to donate a portion of their allowance or money they may earn from helping out at home towards the purchase of blankets for Blanket Sunday. Please encourage your child(ren) to participate in this wonderful mission. Donations will be collected each Sunday in November. Final donations will be accepted on Sunday, November 27.

## We're looking for volunteers . . .

Will you consider spending time with our youngest members on Sunday morning? We're looking for Teachers and Assistants of the Day. If you are interested in volunteering for our Church School Program or would like more information, please call Kathy Vitantonio at 215-822-2394 x 101.

## Club 345 . . . *(a faith-based fellowship and service program for kids in grades 3-5)*

This month, Club 345 will be gathering for a "Manna on Main Street Cooking Activity." Please join us on Sunday, November 6 at 6 p.m. in the kitchen. Then on Sunday, November 20 at 6 p.m. we will gather for Thanksgiving activities. All 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and their friends are welcome!



## AfterGlow . . . *(a faith-based fellowship and service program for kids in grades 6-12)*

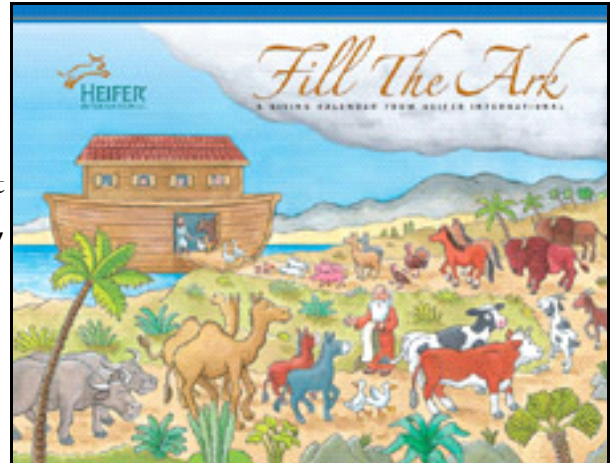


Youth in grades 8 - 12 are invited to attend the PSEC Fall Youth Event, November 4-6 at Mensch Mill. We will take a day trip to New York City on November 19. Details for both events may be found in the monthly mailer and on the bulletin board. Finally, help us decorate the church for Christmas on Sunday, Nov. 27. We'll start decorating after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Lunch will be provided. Sign up on the Board of Christian Educators' bulletin board in Lentz Fellowship Hall.

AfterGlow will have planning meetings on November 6 and 20. As always, our meetings begin with a family potluck meal. Friends are welcome to join you!

## Vacation Bible School was a Success!!

We had a great week in August gaining a deeper appreciation of the ways in which Heifer helps people, animals, and plants live in harmony as God's good creation. With 101 children enrolled for VBS, I must admit that I was very nervous leading it this year. But, I had a great team of people helping me to plan it all out and when the week of August 8 arrived, I had over 40 volunteers show up each morning, with about 60 volunteers total throughout the week help to complete our mission. I could not have done it without everyone's help and I want to sincerely thank everyone for their time and contributions.



Since we did not purchase a curriculum this year, I want to especially thank our planning committee and workshop leaders for putting together the daily activities. The children also had some hands-on experiences with animals and thanks to the 4-H Club, Graceful Glen Alpacas and the Bachman family for their generous gift of time and their love of animals. I feel that the children gained a better understanding of how Heifer can improve the lives of others.

Not only was the VBS program this year devoted to helping Heifer this summer, but the summer church school was also all about Heifer. Kids learned all about different countries and animals, and how a little bit can make a big difference.

**WE DID IT!!** Throughout the week of Vacation Bible School and during our summer church school program, our goal was to raise \$5,000 for Heifer International. This amount of money would allow Pleasantville Church to send a 'Gift Ark' to Heifer, which would help a lot of people in need. During VBS week, the children brought a daily offering to help us get closer to our goal. Many kids brought home small animal banks to fill with their allowance that they generously gave to Heifer. Some children even asked family and friends to donate. By the end of our VBS week, we had raised a total of about \$4,000. Then, with the help of our generous congregation, we have now met our goal of raising \$5,000 and Pleasantville Church will be sending a whole ark full of animals to help people in need!! I was so proud to be a part of this experience and could not have done it without everyone's help. It was definitely a team effort to run VBS and I hope you will consider being a part of our team next summer! Thank you!!

- Jill Wilkinson

### VBS 2011 Acknowledgments:

**Director:** Jill Wilkinson

**Planning Committee:** Lisa Baxter, Pastor Amelie, Kathy Vitantonio, Peg Ness, Teresa Wilhelm, Jill Wilkinson, Paulette Groth, Peggy Schmidt

**Workshop Leaders:** Natalie Bachman (DRAMA), Lisa Hood (CRAFTS), Tyler Callum and Erica Silber (GAMES), Cheri McGiboney (VIDEO), Debbie Mangham (MUSIC)

**Shepherds:** Rachel Bachman, Lisa Baxter, Alexis Drake, Betsy Gensemar, Paulette Groth, Alex Gruber, Kelly Gruber, Kim Gruber, Ricci Holkey, Joan McCarthy, Tori Milano, David VanZant, Jen VanZant, Teresa Wilhelm

**Snack Helpers:** Shirley Anderson, Louise Davidson, Ginny Wunsche, Marion Weisel, Joanna Curran

**Valuable Assistants:** Pastor Hilary, Cheryl Bachman, Rose Cardamone, Amanda Burchell, Jean Clark, Emma Dryden, Ben Fielding, Lydia Fielding, Cassandra Fox, Leanna Fox, Brianna Lengel-Klink, Amelia Hein, Peyton Groth, David Schmidt, Mark Schmidt, Janet Taylor, Madison Taylor, Ana Vitantonio, Angelo Vitantonio, Cassidy VanZant, Tyler Ward, Colin Wilhelm, Danielle Wilhelm, Ralf Wilhelm, Kristin Wilkinson

**Technology/Photography:** David Patterson & Joe Supper

**Skit team:** Kristin Wilkinson (Author), David Schmidt, Tyler Callum, Ben Fielding, Brianna Lengel-Klink, Ana Vitantonio

**Registration:** Peggy Schmidt, Cheryl Bachman, Kim Hein, Kristine Rotelli, Kathy Vitantonio, Marion Weisel, Patti Fuges, Janet Taylor, Lisa Upright

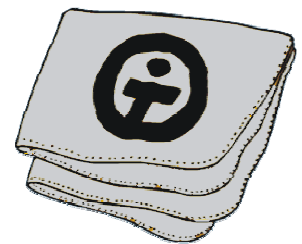
**Decorations:** Lisa Baxter, Brian Groth, Peg Ness

**Nursery Care:** Peggy Schmidt

**Pleasantville's Trustees:** Bill Blethen, Gene Fox, Vernon Benson, Dennis Klein, Mel Gensamer, Steve Stewart

## CHURCH WORLD SERVICE AND BLANKET SUNDAY . . .

The programs of CWS are to provide relief in emergencies across the globe, including hurricane relief in those areas ravaged in Texas and Louisiana and food relief in Zimbabwe to name a few. CWS works with indigenous organizations in some 80 countries. It is supported by some 35 denominations and was founded in 1946. Not only are the programs designed to meet immediate physical needs but also to build community relationships, resettle refugees (8,000 annually into the US), teach farming techniques, build awareness of poverty, educate about the deadly consequences of AIDS and promote human rights. CWS receives some of its funds from the CROP Walk and our very popular Blanket Sunday is an integral part of CWS. It's a wonderful organization fully deserving of our support.



**FROM THE DEACONS . . .**

As November approaches, you're going to hear the word, "stewardship" a lot. What exactly is "stewardship"? Stewardship is a word that refers to how Christians view their responsibility to the world and those around them.

The Christian view of stewardship believes that everything we have belongs to God, and our life of faith together includes learning how to manage those gifts in a way that honors God.

Our stewardship theme this year comes from the Gospel of Luke: "Count Yourself Blessed."

*"Give and it will be given you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:28)*

The Board of Deacons of Pleasantville Church wants to ensure that all members are aware of Pleasantville's Consecration Sunday traditions. The tradition is built on the foundation that each member of this congregation has a role in supporting our church. During the stewardship season, we work to encourage each member to reflect on the congregation's needs, to recognize all that we have been given, and to pledge their financial commitment for the upcoming year. These pledges form the cornerstone of the budget of Pleasantville during 2012.

On Sunday, November 20, the ushers will deliver pledge envelopes to everyone in attendance toward the close of the worship service. Each envelope contains two pledge cards (one white and one blue). The purpose of these cards is to pledge a giving commitment toward the success of Pleasantville for the upcoming year. (Here is a sample of the pledge card.)

FOR CHURCH RECORDS		Envelope # _____
Name _____	Phone _____	
Address _____	State _____	Zip Code _____
My/Our financial pledge to Pleasantville UCC for 2012 is as follows:		
\$ _____	to the regular mission and ministry of the church. <input type="checkbox"/> weekly <input type="checkbox"/> monthly	
\$ _____	to the support of the Building Maintenance Fund <input type="checkbox"/> weekly <input type="checkbox"/> monthly	
I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the appropriate church officer.		
Signed _____	Date _____	

Upon completion of the cards, the white card is returned to the envelope and the envelope is brought forward and placed on the Communion Table. The blue card is retained for your records. Immediately after worship, we will join together for a celebratory brunch in Lentz Fellowship Hall.

In the bulletin inserts during each week of the Stewardship season, we will present information for you to consider as you prepare for Consecration Sunday. The Deacons and the Stewardship Committee encourage each of you to prayerfully consider your role in the advancement of the mission here at Pleasantville and to "Count Yourself Blessed."

**THE HISTORY OF THE MEMORIAL LIBRARY OF PLEASANTVILLE CHURCH**

Recognizing a need in Warrington Township for a library, members of several organizations met on November 22, 1927 with the purpose of forming a library. Representatives of the following organizations included:

Mrs. Harry Kessler of Warrington Women's Club  
Mrs. Frank P. McNair of Warrington Farmer's Club  
Mrs. Edward Garges of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)  
Mrs. J. Conrad Watson of the Young People's Branch of the WCTU  
Mrs. H. A. Clymer  
The Rev. Elmer E. Leiphart

Among present members of our congregation some are descendants of the original committee. By unanimous decision they chose the name Mary H. Walter Memorial Library in honor of a beloved teacher who had died in 1911. The schools were: Mill Creek, Neshaminy, and Warrington.

Pleasantville Reformed Church at Eureka was selected as the site for the library where the teachers brought the students to borrow books. In the years that followed, the emphasis expanded to become an adults as well as a children's library.

Mrs. Bertha H. Nash was the primary librarian for several years; copies of our older books include her name. At that time, fines of two cents per day were imposed. In successive years many volunteers continued to offer their services in the operation of the library. As a result of a bequest from the will of Agnes Lee, the name was changed to Mary H. Walter - Agnes Lee Memorial Library.

In recent years, donations from other sources have been made to the library fund. The present name is The Memorial Library of Pleasantville Church, including the Mary H. Walter - Agnes Lee Reading Room.

Because of the dedicated efforts of individual members and committees in our church, the library continues to be a viable source of inspiration, enjoyment, and information.

*Janet Lapp - November 2011*

Please join us on Wednesday, November 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Pleasantville Church as we celebrate Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. The service will include ministers and choirs of the Chal-Brit area churches. Families with children are encouraged to attend.



## NOTES FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS . . .

Dear Members and Friends,

I deeply appreciate the many prayers you offered to God for my healing. You truly live the words of Scripture, "to heal the sick and preach the Word." I was also moved by the thoughtfulness in the flood of cards sent by so many members to me during my stay in Grandview Hospital and Phoebe Richland. I also thank those who visited me personally. It was extremely kind of you. I came home on September 6 and am enrolled in a physical therapy program to expedite my healing which is progressing generously. Edie and I will never forget your extreme kindness in helping her to move to our new home at The Souderton Mennonite Home. She really could not have done it without you. We are pleased with our new home – please drop by and see us!

God Bless You,  
Paul and Edie Ritter

To the Pastors and Members,

Thank you so much for the altar flowers I received last Sunday. It is wonderful to know so many people wish me well and pray for me. I have good and bad days, but I'm still getting my treatments.

Very sincerely,  
Hilda Dickinson

A letter was received from Doylestown Area FISH thanking us for our donation of \$1,650.

To All the Members of PUCC,

I'd like to say a few words about this summer at Pleasantville. It has been a busy summer. A very busy summer!

To bring you up to date - the upper floor of the Church School wing has been overhauled. The old ceiling was taken down, new drywall installed, and insulation put above the ceiling. We have new lights and the painting is almost finished. The floors have been cleaned and rewaxed so the Church School program started in September with a renewed presence.

Thanks to the Trustees, especially Mel Gensamer and Bill Blethen, the walls have been finished and the lights renewed. I think those people need some thanks from us.

Another busy time has been the VBS. You know, when you have 100 young people here for a week, it takes a lot of planning and preparation. This just doesn't happen out of the blue. Now we find out that Heifer International wants to do an article about our church and the VBS program of the summer. That Heifer magazine is distributed all over the United States so we will get our due recognition and perhaps spur on other churches in the Heifer programs.

The program that was given out during VBS is printed here. I have counted more than 50 volunteer people. If you were on that list, we thank you. If you add up all the hours these people contributed, there would be more than you can imagine. I might add, the week ran like a well-oiled machine!

And, in case you didn't know, we were able to buy that Ark. We thank all those who contributed and especially that anonymous

donor who contributed \$300 at the last moment so that Ark was made possible.

The Pre-School exterior wall was in need of repair. We found out what was causing the paint to peel and that was repaired. The wall was repainted in time for opening day.

Thanks to Ralph Griesinger, who heads the volunteer cleaning program, this church is clean and orderly because of many volunteers who come to the building to do these chores. They all deserve our gratitude! This is not done by a costly outside cleaning crew.

The Space Utilization Committee has done a great job in relocating many of the offices and classrooms. Signs will be posted so we know where the places we want to visit are located.

The new Library is a gem! It is a fully functioning place to relax and find your favorite books. It also contains an area for the archives. You might want to take some time and see if there are historical things that interest you.

There are many things left to do. We have a water problem in the basement of the Chapel. The round window in the Rose Room is getting a water-proofing treatment and will be painted. Lentz Fellowship Hall is starting to show wear. The ramp hallway roof leakage seems to be fixed. Now the work of inside repainting begins. If you are a good painter, there is always a job available. Some of you might want to help in some of these projects. Talk with a Trustee about your involvement.

I hope I have not forgotten anyone.

Sincerely, Dave Patterson

## PLEASANTVILLE ADULT DAY FELLOWSHIP. . .

Please join the Adult Day Fellowship (a 55 plus group) in Lentz Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, November 8 at 11:30 a.m. for our monthly luncheon meeting. Our program will be "Phoebe Ministries: Faith in Action" with The Rev. Daniel Moser as the speaker. The mission will be to give a monetary donation for the Child Sponsorship program. No sign up is necessary and lunch will be provided. Be sure to join us!



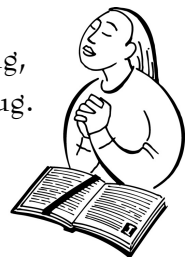
## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - A GLOBAL MISSION PROJECT. . .

You can make a difference. Now is the time to fill a shoebox with toys, school supplies, hygiene items and other things listed for a child in another country. Check out the display in Lentz Hall and pick up a brochure. Bring your shoebox to church plus \$7 to cover the cost of shipping. The shoeboxes will be sent along with storybooks about Jesus to children in other countries. Collection date deadline is Sunday, November 20.

### FROM THE PRAYER GROUP . . .

#### A Prayer for Children of All Ages

I've had my goodnight kiss and hug,  
And now I'm all tucked in and snug.  
Goodnight dear God,  
I'm going to sleep.  
I know that you are near. Amen.



- from *Prayers and Graces for a Small Child*

**VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER . . .**

Elder . . . . . Lisa Baxter  
 Deacon . . . . . Maureen Frederick  
 Trustee . . . . . Bill Blethen

**Greeters**

Nov. 6 . . . . . Eleanor & Ray Bauer  
 Nov. 13 . . . . . Mary Kulp  
 Nov. 20 . . . . . Mary Ellen Wasser  
 Nov. 27 . . . . . Shirley Munsell

**Counters**

Nov. 6 . . . . . Laurie Ross  
 Nov. 13 . . . . . Marcia Ludlow  
 Nov. 20 . . . . . Bud Lapp  
 Nov. 27 . . . . . Tom Callum

**Pulpit Assistants**

Nov. 6 . . . . . Jack Beattie  
 Nov. 13 . . . . . Jim Clark  
 Nov. 20 . . . . . David Lightkep  
 Nov. 27 . . . . . Nate Emery

**Acolytes**

Nov. 6 . . . . . Tyler Wilkinson  
 Nov. 13 . . . . . Julian McNaull  
 Nov. 20 . . . . . Connor Allen  
 Nov. 27 . . . . . Alex Vickery

**Hospitality Table**

Nov. 6 . . . . Adult Christian Ed Program  
 Nov. 13 . . . . . Lisa Hood  
 Nov. 20 . . . . . Consecration Brunch  
 Nov. 27 . . . . Judy & Travis Dent, Margarita  
 Mohler, Joan Whiteley, Judy Naylor

**Kitchen Volunteer** . . . . . Jean Griesinger

**Flower Captain** . . . . . Shirley Munsell

**HUNGER FACTS . . .**

One in eight Americans are food insecure - meaning their access to food is limited by a lack of money and other resources. Increases in heating oil and rents have resulted in record numbers of families seeking assistance. Hunger is on the rise in PA. Over 1.2 million Pennsylvanians, almost 10% of our population, live in households at risk for hunger. That's enough people to fill Penn State's football stadium nearly 12 times. 21% of Pennsylvania children live in poverty. 46% of PA adults requesting food assistance are employed. Find more facts on [www.hungerbites.org](http://www.hungerbites.org).

The New Britain Food Larder accepts all non-perishable items. *This month we are asking for toiletries, paper towels, toilet paper.* They also need cleaning and laundry supplies, health and beauty aids, and paper products. Place items on either the shelf near the Chapel or on the table outside the Sanctuary. You may write a check to Pleasantville Church and mark it "Food Larder."

**CAREGIVERS GROUP TO BEGIN . . .**

Beginning in November, caregivers will have the opportunity to gather together to share their experiences and gain support. Whether you are caring for a loved one at home, visiting them in a nursing home, or helping from a distance, we share common feelings and experiences. If you are a caregiver, please join us on the first Friday of the month beginning November 4 at 2 p.m. This group will be facilitated by Lisa Morvillo, LSW Parish Social Worker for Pleasantville Church. Please contact the church office for more information or questions.