

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Pleasant Valley, NY



On The Road to Damascus...

Weekly Email Blast

November 30, 2018

With love and prayers from your rector;
An Advent Prayer for You and For All:
Advent Credo

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—

This is true: For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life;

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—

This is true: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called wonderful councilor, mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—

This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—

This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall have dreams.

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history—

This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ—the life of the world.

From *Walking on Thorns*, by Allan Boesak, Eerdmans, 2004.



For those celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Linda Rothmann, Christi Battistoni, Jerney Mertens



VESTRY MEETING FOR DECEMBER:

Monday, December 10th meeting and Pot Luck Dinner at 6pm (location tba)



Rural and Migrant Ministry

Sunday, December 9th: Last day for RMM donations!



Renewal Works - THIS SUNDAY

The committee met twice and the overriding thought that keeps resurfacing is:

Are we praying more than we think? Let us all join together this Sunday during coffee hour for a brief time, in small groups, to discuss this topic and see where the Spirit leads us! Everyone invited and welcome!! Rita Carver will also attend the 8:00am service to make a short presentation and answer any questions you may have.



Coat Drive - THIS SUNDAY

Please bring coats/hats/scarves/gloves/mittens for during November/December – donations go to PV Food Pantry – Thank You!



**Festival of Lights
TOMORROW!!!**

<https://www.pvfol.com>

Saturday, December 1st

****highlights****

2:00-3:30pm Cookie decorating in Parish Hall

6:30pm Parade is rain or shine or snow or not...

Come see the St. Paul's float - it's pretty "sweet"



Youth Ministry (CONNECT)

Sunday, December 9th

12:00 - 2:00 PM

at Grace Church, Millbrook





***** REMINDERS *****

[Adams Gift Cards: Year-Round Fundraising](#)

Available at both Sunday morning services. Please see Debby, Ginny, or Marilyn. St. Paul's receives 10% of the card value bought through our church. If you shop at Adams or give gift cards as gifts, our ministries benefit from this fundraiser. Thank You!

[Communications](#)

If you use Facebook, please like & follow the [St. Paul's page](#). Also, please invite people you know who may be interested in the mission and outreach ministries at St. Paul's. Let's get the WORD out!



[Weekly Ministry Schedule](#)

First Wednesdays - THIS WEEK:

1:00 PM Holy Eucharist - Rite II w/prayers for healing - ADA Access

6:45 PM Ecumenical Food Pantry

PV United Methodist Church, Volunteers Welcome!

All other Wednesdays:

1:00-2:30 PM Bible Study: Sepe Room, Parish Hall

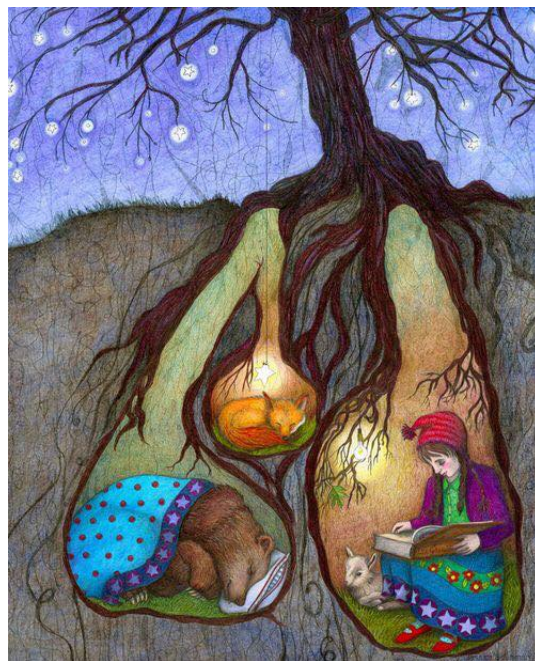
Fridays:

6:00 PM: Evening Prayer in the Church

Sundays:

9:45 AM Sunday School

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM Adult Ed: Sepe Room, Parish Hall



a winter invitation:

We are approaching the threshold of winter.

Life is being drawn into the earth, painlessly descending down into the very heart of herself.

And we as natural human animals are being called to do the same, the pull to

descend into our bodies, into sleep, darkness and the depths of our own inner caves continually tugging at our marrow.

But many find the descent into their own body a scary thing indeed, fearing the unmet emotions and past events that they have stored in the dark caves inside themselves, not wanting to face what they have so carefully and unkindly avoided.

This winter solstice time is no longer celebrated as it once was, with the understanding that this period of descent into our own darkness was so necessary in order to find our light. That true freedom comes from accepting with forgiveness and love what we have been through and vanquishing the hold it has on us, bringing the golden treasure back from the cave of our darker depths.

This is a time of rest and deep reflection, a time to wipe the slate clean as it were and clear out the old so you can walk into spring feeling ready to grow and skip without a dusty mountain on your back & chains around your ankles tied to the caves in your soul.

A time for the medicine of story, of fire, of nourishment and love.

A period of reconnecting, relearning & reclaiming of what this time means brings winter back to a time of kindness, love, rebirth, peace and unburdening instead of a time of dread, fear, depression and avoidance.

This modern culture teaches avoidance at a max at this time; alcohol, lights, shopping, overworking, over spending, bad food and consumerism.

And yet the natural tug to go inwards as nearly all creatures are doing is strong and people are left feeling as if there is something wrong with them, that winter is cruel and leaves them feeling abandoned and afraid. Whereas in actual fact winter is so kind, yes she points us in her quiet soft way towards our inner self, towards the darkness and potential death of what we were, but this journey if held with care is essential.

She is like a strong teacher that asks you to awaken your inner loving elder or

therapist, holding yourself with awareness of forgiveness and allowing yourself to grieve, to cry, rage, laugh, & face what we need to face in order to be freed from the jagged bonds we wrapped around our hearts, in order to reach a place of healing & light without going into overwhelm.

Winter takes away the distractions, the noise and presents us with the perfect time to rest and withdraw into a womb like love, bringing fire & light to our hearth.

- words Brigit Anna McNeill•
- illustration by Jessica Boehman•



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