



# PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PALISADES  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



## — REFLECTIONS —

*“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”*  
-Teresa of Ávila

The other day I spoke to a woman who was 102 years old. She was ready to die and wondering why she was still around. In fact, she was quite angry that she was still alive. We talked about this and then I asked her if she was a spiritual or religious person. She responded saying that she never had “much use for God.” She explained that she saw and experienced much suffering in her life and in the world and didn’t see much evidence of the presence of a loving God. I have to admit she had a point. With all the hurricanes, earthquakes, violence, illness and the threat of complete nuclear annihilation, it’s easy to wonder: “Does God exist?”

Now I am not about to become an apologist for God. In truth, I believe she raises an important question. How can a loving God allow (some would say cause) suffering and pain? It’s a question for which an answer has been sought for thousands of years.

Some people answer the question by disbelieving in a Divine presence, others by denying the reality of suffering, still others respond with the ability to enter into the mystery of suffering while still holding on to their belief in God.

But I always wonder when this argument is put forth: Does God owe us anything? We have been given the gift of life, consciousness, and the ability to create and love. Do we have the right to ask any more from God? And as far as natural disasters, again why do we assume anything is owed to us by a creator?

If we are honest, much of the suffering that exists is human made. We start wars, not God. We hoard our resources causing some to go hungry and homeless. We refuse to accept our role in climate change which is damaging our environment. We withhold the best healthcare from the majority of the world. We are responsible for most of suffering in the world. We cannot blame God.

I cannot explain innocent suffering. I’ve given up trying. Instead, my response to the life I’ve been given, and I do believe it was given to me by God, is to do my part to alleviate the suffering I encounter. I do this because Jesus did it. He encountered a need and he responded.

So, in the face of hurricanes and earthquake we can pray and share our resources with those who are on the front lines. We can, if we feel called, respond in person to the needs of those hurt by these disasters. And most importantly we can allow God to work in, with and through us, so that we become agents of God’s healing love in the midst of suffering.

John Michael Talbot has a wonderful song in which he puts to music Teresa of Avila’s prayer. It is a good reminder of the ways we can resist the temptation to dwell on the whys and do nothing. There is great need in the world and in Talbot’s words: “Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet on which Christ walks to do good.”

Blessings,  
Angela

### Food Week of Action and World Food Day

*We are called to work for a world where everyone has sufficient, healthy and culturally appropriate food! And where those who produce and prepare the food are fairly compensated, respected and celebrated!*

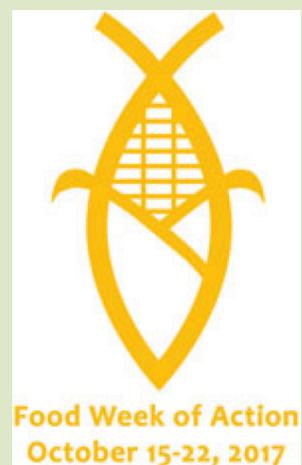
The global Food Week of Action (October 15-22) is an opportunity for Christians and others around the world to act together for food justice and food sovereignty. It is a special time to raise awareness about approaches that help individuals and communities develop resiliency and combat poverty.

The Food Week of Action includes:

- World Food Day (October 16)
- International Day for Rural Women (October 15)
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17).

For action steps visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/ybavxcxf>



## OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:00 am  
Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

- 1 Communion Sunday
- 4 Parent Support Group, 7:00 pm
- 10 Session, 7:30 pm
- 15 Food Week: Cents-a-bility program begins

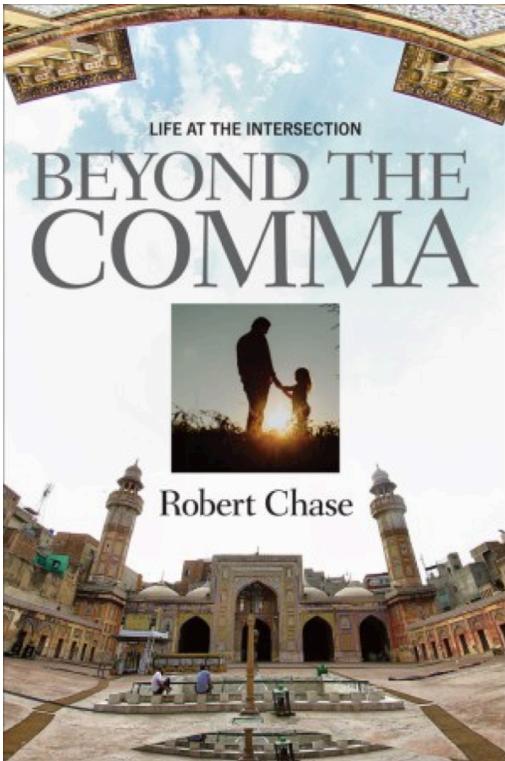
November 3 Family Movie Night, 6:00 pm

## Deacons' Corner

September went by quickly and we are back to our regular duties. Nothing special to report. We do have a new tea kettle and like to remind all Deacons and others who use the stove, to please make sure that the gas is turned OFF afterwards.

Again, you may call Jim Rubenstone if you need a ride to church on Sundays. For Prayer requests you can call Stephen van Dyk and if you need a casserole please call Margaret Allen.

Have a happy Halloween!



Rev. Robert Chase, former pastor (1997-1999) of our church and recently returned resident to our community, will lead a conversation about his new book, *Beyond the Comma*, at the Palisades Free Library at 7:00 pm on *Wednesday, October 25*. Everyone is invited to an interesting dialogue about how we navigate those “comma moments” when all life seems to change. You can learn more about his book on his web site: [www.robertjchase.com](http://www.robertjchase.com).

After leaving Palisades, Bob served in the national offices of the United Church of Christ as the denomination's Director of Communication. In 2007 he was called to be founding director of Intersections International, a new global social justice initiative of the Collegiate Church of New York, the oldest corporation in North America. He recently retired and, along with his wife Blythe, a long-time member of our church, returned to live in our community.

Admission is free; refreshments will be served; signed copies of the book will be available for sale. Please bring checks or cash only, please.



## Listen to recent sermons

Click this link to find our "PPC Station" and hear recent sermons:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-648376377>



## Directory Update

Please remember to inform Tamika if there is a change in your mailing address, e-mail or other contact information. Our directory is only as accurate as the information provided.

Call the office at 845-359-3147 or e-mail Tamika at [ppc10964@gmail.com](mailto:ppc10964@gmail.com) with any changes, edits or just to confirm the information we have.

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