



PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PALISADES
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



— REFLECTIONS —

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

-Mark 1:14-15

Every week in *The New Yorker* there is a cartoon contest. A recent picture was drawn of a restaurant set on top of a remote mountain. A Guru-type man with a long beard was the maître d'. A mountain climber appeared to be inquiring about his reservation. My favorite of the winning captions was: "I can't seat you until you are fully present." For some reason, this made me think of all the times Jesus asks us to repent for the kingdom of God is near. It almost is as if Jesus is saying "You cannot enter the kingdom of God until you are fully present." Repentance helps us to be fully present because repentance involves owning all parts of ourselves, taking responsibility for our actions and turning our lives around where needed. Lent is the time of the church year where repentance is front and center. We are called to become fully present: to God, to ourselves, and to our neighbors.

This year, as part of my own Lenten journey of repentance, I've rediscovered a favorite book of mine. It's nearly twenty years old but reading it again I realized how important it is for our present time. It is called "Inner Compass" by Margaret Silf. In the introduction, she tells the story of an egotistical, narcissistic, womanizing soldier from the 16th century named Inigo Lopez. The youngest of 13, he lived a hedonistic life until a war injury forced him to return to his childhood home. Bedridden because of his injuries, and out of sheer boredom, he began to read the Bible, especially the stories found in the gospels. He did more than just read them, however. Using his imagination, he placed himself within the stories, becoming the very characters that encountered Jesus. This intimate experience of God led to his conversion. He repented, and found the kingdom of God within him.

This 16th century follower of Jesus became St. Ignatius of Loyola one of the founders of the Jesuits. Out of his prayer experience he developed *The Spiritual Exercises*, used to this day and modernized in Silf's book. They are a guide on how to become increasingly sensitive to God's action in our lives and how to discover and live true to the very deepest desires within us. It is the challenge and hope for any spiritual pilgrim and the challenge and hope of the Lenten season.

May you embark on a spiritual journey this Lent. Find a guide, maybe Silf (it's an easy read) or maybe begin with five minutes of computer/smart phone/ Facebook free time to sit in silence and reconnect with yourself and reconnect with God. Silf urges us to take this journey that leads us to the place where God abides. She calls it the "Who-center", the place where God is growing God's unique Dream in you." The invitation she says, "is to discover that Dream, and to live it."

May you become fully present to God's dream for you this Lent.

Blessings,
Angela



During World War II and immediately following, Protestant churches made appeals for relief and reconstruction. In 1949, church leaders from several denominations organized an appeal to convey the importance of strengthening the relief and rehabilitation work of the churches overseas. By pulling together, they could prove to the world the great power generated when Christians unite in a common cause.

In 1950, the title "One Great Hour of Sharing" was used for the first time. Its goal was to make the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffered the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Sixty-eight years later "One Great Hour of Sharing" is supported by eight different Christian denominations and the purpose remains the same: collect a special offering to help those in need.

Through our OGH offering to PCUSA, we support the three critical missions of the church: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) and Self-Development of People (SDOP). PDA provides support for refugees and works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of a disaster; PHP takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and address the systemic causes of poverty; and SDOP partners with communities to respond to their experiences of poverty and injustice. These programs are working all around the globe and right here at home in Rockland County, through grants that support local programs like the Lighthouse Project, which works with documented and undocumented immigrants locally to advocate for themselves. Your gift will help to support this important work and more.



On February 4 the congregation acknowledged and thanked Kimberly Wekerle for her 18 years of service as the Clerk of Session with a cake decorated with the Book of Order.

MARCH CALENDAR

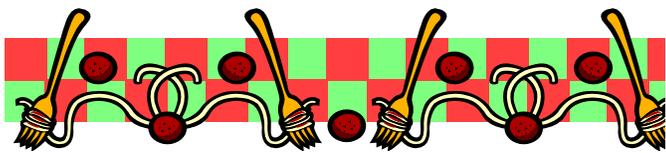
Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

- March 4 Communion
Guest Preacher, Rev. Daniel Yang
Trip to the Greenburgh Nature Center
for Maple Sugaring Party,
11:00 am – 3:00 pm
- March 9 Spaghetti Dinner, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
- March 13 Session Meeting, 7:30 pm
- March 28 Maundy Thursday, 6:30 pm at the
St. Charles AME Zion Church
- March 30 Ecumenical Good Friday Service at
Tappan Reformed Church, 8:00 pm
- April 1 6:30 am Easter Sunrise Service at the
Church
10:00 am Traditional Easter Service
Easter Egg Hunt following worship

Study Leave

Rev. Maddalone will be on Study Leave
March 2 – 9. Please call the Church or Rev. Katie
Rivera Torrea 567-224-2297 for pastoral
emergencies.



Spaghetti Dinner

Brought to you by the children of the
Palisades Presbyterian Church
to benefit United Hospice of Rockland

Date: Friday, March 9
Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

\$8.00 Adults
\$5.00 Children 12 & under
\$20.00 families of four or more

Spaghetti & Meatballs
Salad & Bread
Dessert



New Church Administrative Assistant

We say farewell to Tamika Adjemian who is moving to Maine. We are grateful for her excellent service and wish her well on her new adventure.

At the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, Session has hired Jane Cowan as the new Administrative Assistant. Jane comes to us from the world of fashion design and is currently a nursing student at Rockland Community College. Her office hours are Wednesday and Friday, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm. We are excited to welcome her to our staff.

DEACONS' CORNER

The PC USA calls deacons to a ministry of “compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress.” Sounds like a lot of responsibility, but it is really not. We are here to serve all in need! In the past, Deacons were assigned to congregation members such that everyone had a “personal Deacon” that they could reach out to or confide in during times of need. If anyone in the congregation would prefer to have a personal Deacon please let someone on the Board of Deacons or Angela know, and we will provide someone for you.

As we begin the season of Lent please know that we are ready with a helping hand! Stephen Van Dyk will take your prayer request and contact Denise Cae Tilberis if you or someone you know needs a casserole or a dinner. For rides to and/or from worship contact Margaret Allen. If a memorial service or any other event is being held at the church contact John Guzewich to help coordinate the service. The Board of Deacons contact information is included in the bulletin the first week of each month.

As far as weather in February goes, this past one has not been too bad. Let's hope March follows along as Spring is not too far off!

Holy Week and Easter Services

This year, our traditional joint potluck and Maundy Thursday Service will be held at St. Charles AME Zion Church in Sparkill. The date is Thursday, March 28. We will gather at 6:30 pm in their Fellowship Hall to share a delicious dinner of home-cooked meals. Please sign up if you plan on coming, indicating what you will bring. The service of Tenebrae will begin at 8:00 pm in the sanctuary at St. Charles.

There will be an Ecumenical Good Friday Service at 8:00 pm on Friday March, 30, at the Tappan Reformed Church. The service will be conducted by ministers of all the participating churches.

This year, our Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 6:30 am in the garden of the Parish House behind Palisades Church. All are welcome. The service is followed by a delicious potluck breakfast. If you plan on coming, please sign up with what you will bring for the breakfast.

Our traditional Easter Sunday celebration will take place at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary.