



PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PALISADES
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



— REFLECTIONS —

¹⁶*You will know them by their fruits...*

¹⁸*A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.*

¹⁹*Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.* ²⁰*Thus you will know them by their fruits.*

²¹*Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only one who does the will of my Father in heaven.* ²²*On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?"* ²³*Then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers."*
-Matthew 7:16, 18-22

The other day an evangelical friend of mine confided in me that she believed we were living in end times. "There are wars and rumors of wars," she said, quoting from the gospel of Mark. Of course the writer of Mark was feeling the same way about the times he was living in 2000 years ago. The Romans had destroyed the Jerusalem temple in retaliation for a rebel uprising and thousands of people had been killed to teach them a lesson. "Surely these must be signs of the end of the age" I imagine the Evangelist was thinking.

The danger with believing that we are living in the "end times" however is that our fear often gets the best of us. Fear can drive us to say things we would not normally say and act in ways we would not normally act. Fear can make us afraid of whole groups of people, arguing for there to be ways to mark them (like the Nazis did in Germany with the star of David) or keep them from coming into our country altogether. Fear makes us want to build walls and keep people out. Fear encourages violence and violent behavior and fear is the fertile ground in which lies, and those who tell them, flourish and grow. Fear can make us not even care if they are lies as long as they make us feel less afraid.

Jesus warns of this in the Gospel of Matthew: "Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven." Jesus later in the Gospel tells a parable about how to know if a person is one of his followers concluding the parable with the phrase: "Whatever you do to the least of my sisters and brothers you do to me." (Matthew 25). You can't get much clearer than that: love, compassion, mercy, and forgiveness...all trump fear.

Paul too gives us a simple guide for sifting through the rhetoric:

"By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23) It is pretty clear: we can know what and who is of God by the fruits of their actions.

We may be living in end times, but it does not matter, because whatever times we are living in as Christians we are called, not to act from our fear, but to live as resurrection people. We are called to carry on Jesus' vision of love, compassion, forgiveness, mercy, justice and peace. We are called to be a light in broken world. We are called to walk humbly with God.

Blessings,

Angela

For a beautiful song by David Haas about how to live as resurrection go to this link:

<https://youtu.be/7wjLPKuRCFE>



We raised \$3,105.35 for One Great Hour of Sharing during our Lenten Season campaign. Thank you to everyone who contributed to support the Presbyterian Hunger, Disaster Relief and Self Development of People programs. Donation are still being accepted- just mark "OGHS" in the memo portion of your check made out to Palisades Presbyterian Church.

Thank you

We extend our thanks to Cass and Nick Ludington for sharing their home on Easter morning at the Sunrise service.

APRIL CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

- April 3 Communion
- April 9 Spaghetti Dinner 5:30 pm
- April 12 Session 7:30 pm
- April 16 Church Clean Up, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- April 17 Hospice Walk to Remember, Rockland Lake State Park, Congers, 8:00 am

Strawberry Festival Saturday, June 11

Deacons' Corner

We ask for all to keep Deacons Berenice Albright and Joanne Conde in your thoughts and prayers as they recover from surgery. The Deacons continue their regular duties of service to the church that include providing rides, preparing coffee hours and preparing for communion, overseeing prayer chain and corresponding to those mentioned in joys and concerns. Contact Jim Rubenstone if you need or can provide rides, Stephen Van Dyk for prayers and concerns, and Margaret Allen for meals for shut-ins. The Deacons will begin planning for the Strawberry Festival scheduled for June 11 this year.



Stained Glass Window Restoration

Kim Wekerle, Bill Pfaff, John Cuccia, Stephen Van Dyk & Bob Rasmussen met with David Krysiak of the Willet-Hauer Company (firm that will be doing the restoration of 18 historic windows) to talk over particular aspects and scheduling of the work. A down payment with a signed contract was subsequently sent to Willet-Hauer. The committee will soon meet the construction crew to set a date to begin the project that should be completed this summer.

Spaghetti Dinner

Brought to you by the children of the Palisades Presbyterian Church

Date: Saturday, April 9, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

\$8.00 Adults

\$5.00 Children 12 & under

\$20 Family Maximum

Spaghetti & Meatballs

Salad & Bread

Dessert



Spring Clean Up

Help Bob Rasmussen and John Cuccia clean up the grounds and building on Saturday, April 16, 9:00am – 12:00pm



Sympathy to the Finck Family

W. Arnold Finck joined the Church on October 7, 1956. He passed away peacefully at the age of 96 on March 14, 2016. Over 150 people attended a celebration of his life held in the sanctuary on March 19. Many thanks to all who made the service and reception such a joyful remembrance of Arn. He and his wife Liz, who predeceased him, shared a multitude of gifts with our Church for over 50 years.

Personnel Committee

Session elected Ann McGill to serve on the personnel committee for a three year term. The committee provides oversight for the Church's staff including the Pastor, Secretary, Music director & Organist and Sexton. The committee is chaired by Ruling Elder Lori Hylton. Other members are: Susan Orlando, class of 2017 and John Guzewich, class of 2018.