



PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PALISADES
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



— REFLECTIONS —

“What we fall into is what Christianity would call both an abyss and an utter foundation. What a paradox! But in God, they are not opposites.”

-Richard Rohr, Franciscan Friar

A mountain climber who slipped on a wet rock found himself clinging to a small branch jutting over a 900-foot drop. In desperation he looked up to the sky and shouted “Is anybody up there?” A booming voice answered him: “It is the Lord, my son and I will help you but first you must have faith in me.” “Yes, yes, I trust you!” cried the man. “Let go of the branch,” said the Lord. “What?” shouted the man. “Let go of the branch,” the voice said again. There was a long pause, and the man shouted up again, “IS THERE ANYONE ELSE UP THERE I COULD TALK TO?”

Trusting God with our lives is easier said than done. It requires the spiritual discipline of surrendering our lives to God fully. Most of us would rather do anything else. It’s fine to go to church on Sunday and learn a few “feel good” lessons, but surrendering? That’s a different story. We don’t like the word “surrender,” especially us Westerners. It implies giving up and loss of control and we never give up. It’s in our DNA as Americans.

The truth is, however, while we hesitate to surrender to God, we unconsciously surrender to many other things or people all the time, in particular our fears and distractions. While we protest trusting God, we wrongly believe we must trust ourselves. In reality we are trusting values created by a society that more often than not does not have our best interests in mind. We become enslaved by our fears, thinking we are free. We give ourselves over to the pursuit of things, or contrive ways to control our lives in attempts to resist surrendering to anything.

It often takes a crisis or tragedy to quickly remind us how little control we have over our lives. It often takes humility to recognize how much we need to depend on the promises of God.

Surrendering to God, trusting God, has nothing to do with giving up. Instead it is giving God permission to act in our lives. It is a giving over, allowing God to fulfill God’s dream for us.

This campaign season has been ripe with rhetoric of individualism. The strong leader is the leader who won’t take anything from anyone. But as Christians we follow a leader who surrendered himself to God completely in order to show strength in what the world calls weakness.

May we, in this season of Pentecost, open ourselves to the presence of the Holy Spirit allowing God to work in, with and through us. It is precisely in surrendering to God that we become free.

Blessings, Angela

Deacons’ Corner

The Deacons coordinated the delivery of lilies to friends and members of the congregation at Easter in April. The Deacons and other church members coordinated the reception for Arn Finck’s memorial service on March 19 that was attended by more than 150. Thanks to all who helped with this event! Deacons will soon post sign-up sheets to help with this year’s strawberry festival that will be held on June 11 from 2:00 to 6:00 pm. We will need your help with set up, clean up, hulling, ticket sales, serving, baking, and other tasks so that we can have a great day of fun and fellowship.

Please contact the Deacons if you can help with coffee hour. Contact Margaret Allen for arranging food for shut-ins, Jim Rubenstone for rides to worship and Stephen Van Dyk for those requiring our prayers.

MAY CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

May 1	Communion Sunday
May 8	Worship Committee 11:00 am
May 10	Session 7:30 pm
May 30	Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am – 11:00 am

Strawberry Festival Saturday, June 11

Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast



Monday, May 30, 8:00 – 11:00 am
Adults \$8.00
Children under 12 \$3.00