



# PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PALISADES  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



— REFLECTIONS —

I cannot tell you how the light comes.  
What I know is that it is more ancient  
than imagining.  
That it travels across an astounding expanse  
To reach us.

That it loves searching out  
What is hidden, what is lost,  
What is forgotten or in peril  
Or in pain.

I cannot tell you how the light comes,  
But that it does.  
That it will  
That it works its way  
Into the deepest dark that enfolds you,  
Though it may seem  
Long ages in coming  
Or arrive in a shape  
You did not foresee.

And so may we this day  
Turn ourselves toward it.  
May we lift our faces to let it find us.  
May we bend our bodies to follow the arc it makes.  
May we open and open more  
And open still  
To the blessed light that comes

Jan Richardson's beautiful poem, "How the Light Comes" spoke to me this Christmas season. It is a brilliant reminder in these days of early night that Christmas has little to do with snowmen, Christmas trees or Santas and everything to do with the birth of a human being who embodied Divine Light. A person whose life reminds us what God intended for God's precious creation. It is my hope that, in the hustle and bustle of malls and internet shopping, we recall the Christmas story written to bring hope to the hopeless, joy to the joyless and peace to the world. It is my hope that, in the midst of the busyness the season has become, we remember how we are called as followers of the Prince of Peace and strive to live our lives as bearers of this Light.

Blessings,  
Angela

### Deacons' Corner

Deacons continue to be busy with diverse projects that serve our church. Please contact Margaret Allen if you need or know of someone who is in need of meals. Contact Jim Rubenstone if you need rides to worship and Stephen Van Dyk on prayer concerns. The Deacons appreciate the congregation's assistance with coffee hour, getting meals to shut-ins, helping with food shopping, and driving folks to the doctor. Thank you!

### Save the Date for a Midnight Run Event

A cold weather breakfast run will be held on Saturday January 28, 2017. After Christmas we will be collecting old coats for distribution as part of the run.



### Annual Appeal for Christmas Gifts

Gifts will be collected for children in Harlem hospitals and the surrounding neighborhoods. We need gifts for all ages, especially 8 to 12 year-olds. Good gift ideas include: toy cars and trucks, board and card games, and books. Stuffed animals will be provided by others. Drop off your gifts at the church before December 24. Gifts can be left unwrapped or may be wrapped with a note indicating the appropriate age and gender of the recipient.

A Very Special Thank You to Jennifer Shapiro and Ann McGill for their help over the last several years in proof reading and editing the *Pal Pres*. This was a much better newsletter because of their command of the English language and their thoughtful suggestions.

### Christmas Eve Services

5:30 pm Family Friendly  
Worship with Candle Lighting

11:00 pm Traditional Lessons  
and Carols

Both will include traditional  
carols as well as special music  
performed by our choir.

Christmas Day falls on Sunday  
this year. We will hold a service  
at 10:00 am featuring carol  
singing, prayers and readings.  
There will be no sermon.



## DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

- 4 10:00 am Communion
- 11:00 am Congregational meeting
- 10 10:00 am – 12:00 noon Officer Training
- 11 10:00 am Ordination/installation of new officers
- 15 7:00 pm Greening of sanctuary
- 18 Pageant
- 24 Services at 5:30 and 11:00 pm
- 25 Elder Von Eckardt leads worship service

### Pastor Vacation

Rev. Maddalone will be on vacation  
December 26-31, 2016.



## Meet Our New Church Secretary Tamika Adjemian

Along with being the church's new administrative assistant I am a professional Culinary Consultant. I do some small private catering jobs and during the spring and summer months I run a large Edible Education & Garden program for the 92nd Street Y Camps. I hail originally from Sparkill and have raised two remarkable young women in this area. I am so grateful to be part of the lovely Palisades Presbyterian community.

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 am – 2:30 pm.

### Hanging of the Greens

The church will be decorated for Christmas on Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 pm. Come and help Bob and Beatrice Rasmussen with this annual activity.

**The annual Christmas Pageant** presented by the children's Sunday School will take place December 18 during worship.

### Christmas Card Writing

Cass Ludington will gather those interested in writing Christmas cards to people in prison after Church December 18 in the Parish House.



Every year at Christmas the church is decorated with poinsettias. Following the Christmas Eve services individual plants are distributed to members and friends of the church who have suffered a loss, been ill or otherwise identified by the Deacons for the poinsettias. Suggested donation is \$10. To make a donation please fill out the form attached to the bulletin or call the church office.

### Parking Reminder

During the snow season, everyone must park on the church side of the street so that traffic can pass when the snow piles up.



### Weather Alert

In the event of an extreme weather event, please call the church and listen to the message or check the church website to find out if worship is canceled. Notice will be given by 8:00 am on the day of the service.

[www.palpresny.org](http://www.palpresny.org)

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