



PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PALISADES
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



— REFLECTIONS —

“It’s very difficult to talk about sin...sin is that moment where I choose an orientation and even though I know it is not true I live it out. Sin is when you know that it is wrong and you still do it. We have to face this crisis of freedom... We can no longer base our morality on external actions of goodness. It’s no longer good enough simply to be good people. We have to wake up. I cannot choose to remain unconscious when I have the ability and the choice to become conscious.”

-Br. Don Bisson

Lent is the season in the church year when we are given the space to make the unconscious in our lives conscious. We are given the opportunity throughout this reflective season to come face to face with the parts of ourselves we withhold from God, the parts of our lives that we choose to live in opposition to God’s love and the ways we collude with the evil around us.

As Br. Don wrote, it is no longer good enough to be good people. We live in a time when good people are silent in the face of injustice and in the face of discrimination and prejudice. Never has this been more true than in dealing with the sin of racism that has plagued our country since its birth.

Shelly Tochluk in her book, *Witnessing Whiteness* writes: “Witnessing whiteness involves not only shining a light into our shadows and facing the damage our history of race continues to do to our psyche but also clarifying our individual relationship to race and our racial identity.” What she proposes is exactly what the call to repentance during Lent is about. The call is not easy and will make us uncomfortable and it will disturb our peace. But that is exactly what any spiritual journey we embark upon does.

The Holy Spirit is always disturbing the comfortable even as God’s Spirit comforts us. This is the paradox of faith. And this is why I would encourage you to join us this Lent on Wednesday evenings as we study together the sacred texts that call us into a new relationship with each other and that command us to repent of our sins, including the sin of racism.

Jim Wallace writes of how we must “Repent of the sin of racism. That means to study, learn, and change our relationships in order to act in changing our practices and policies of racism. The only answer to the racial divide among Christians... is to go much deeper into what racial equity and healing will require.”

I know our lives are busy, but this Lent I hope you will join us for all or part of our journey towards deeper reconciliation and deeper love of God and each other through study and prayer on Wednesday evenings in Lent.

Blessings,
Angela



Lent is traditionally a season of fasting and prayer. During this time, Christians pay close attention to spiritual disciplines that deepen our understanding of what God is doing in our lives and in the world. As a church, we spend time together hearing about and praying for the ministries of compassion and justice done through our support of One Great Hour of Sharing.

Jesus’ ministry was among those who were most vulnerable. He preached good news to the poor and release to the captives. One Great Hour of Sharing helps us share this same good news to those same vulnerable people in our world today: those who are hungry, who are suffering from disaster, who are dealing with oppression in society.

Every gift made to this offering will meet the needs of people, and you will hear about just a few of these individuals over the coming weeks—in bulletin inserts and minutes for mission. These stories will help us to see the faces of those whose lives have been changed by our gifts, but they are only a few of the thousands and thousands of people served in this important ministry.

I challenge each of you to give strong consideration to increasing your gift to the offering—you’ll see how giving opens your heart to God’s work in your own life. So I hope that during this season you’ll join us and Christians all across the country in opening their hearts to witness tangibly to the abundant love of God through One Great Hour of Sharing.

Lori Hylton

MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

- 1 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm
- 4 Concert: New Orleans North!
- 5 Communion
- 5 New Members Class 11:30 – 12:30 pm
- 10 Sunday School Movie Night 7:00 pm
- 14 Session 7:30 pm

Angela on Study Leave

Angela will be on Study Leave March 20-27. She will be attending Lenten retreat programs at Mariandale and Linwood Spiritual Centers.

New Members Class for All

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Church? Are you already a member? Join us for a New Members Class for All on Sunday, March 5 from 11:30 – 12:30. Everyone is invited to share in this time of learning and fellowship as we explore the responsibilities of membership in the Presbyterian Church. A sign-up sheet is in the Parish House.

DEACONS' CORNER

February went by fast, we sailed through groundhog's day, one snow storm and an "icy" Sunday morning. We missed coffee hour on the 12th of February due to the canceled service.

As always we are ready with a helping hand! You may call Jim Rubenstone if you need a ride to church on Sunday. Stephen Van Dyk will take your prayer request and if you are in need of a casserole you may let Margret Allen know. We all are already looking forward to the coming Spring. Enjoy!

Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community Churchwide Antiracism Policy

Lenten Bible Study:

Together with churches in Rockland County we will explore the Biblical foundation for antiracist work by delving deep into the guiding principles that reveal "God loves diversity and justice."

Wednesday evenings March 8 – April 12, 7:30 – 9:30 pm

March 8
Biblical Imperative to Antiracism:
@ New Hempstead Presbyterian Church.

March 29
Racism 101:
@ Palisades Presbyterian Church

March 15
Envisioning a New Way of Life Together:
@ Palisades Presbyterian Church

April 5
Enduring Legacy of Racism in the US:
@ New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

March 22
PC (USA) and Racial Reconciliation: @ New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

April 12
Responding as a Community of Faith:
@ Palisades Presbyterian Church

Sexual Misconduct Policy Adopted

At the February Session meeting, a formal policy of Sexual Misconduct and its procedures was adopted. A copy is available in the office.



Sunday School Movie Night

Pizza and popcorn. Bring a snack or dessert to share. Invite a friend.

Date: Friday, March 10
Time: 7:00 pm



Inclement Weather or Emergency Cancellation of Services

Last month, services were cancelled due to icy road conditions. Every effort was made to reach everyone before they came to services. Any notice of cancellation or change in services is posted on the website and on the church answering machine. In order to reach everyone, session is asking that you call or e-mail the church office and let us know if you would prefer to receive a phone call in the future or if you will rely on the other methods of communication.

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Articles due by the 20th day of the preceding month * Editor Maria Gagliardi *
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