



PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PALISADES
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



— REFLECTIONS —

“Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.”

-Luke 24:9-11

The women remembered Jesus’ words and believed them. The women remembered Jesus’ teachings about love: for enemies, for their neighbor, for the least among us; love that unites every human being with another; love that is stronger than fear and drives out hate; love that is merciful, compassionate and forgiving. The women remembered his words and believed them. They remembered Jesus’ words about humility, generosity, welcoming the stranger, justice and hope that makes one strong in the face of abusive power. They remembered his words about power embodied in the model of servant leadership.

The women remembered his words and believed them.

But the others... the others thought their words were an idle tale. They wished to return to the ways of the world. It always made more sense to them. The ways of might is right; the ways of vengeance and power over another; the ways of looking out for oneself and giving into one’s fears.

The others forgot and thought the women’s words were an idle tale.

Have we too forgotten? Have we refused to believe? It would seem we have. We have replaced the Gospel of Jesus with the gospel of America First. We are living in terrifying times.

We are living on the brink of thermo-nuclear war. Never before, not even during the Cold War with Russia have I ever been so frightened. The nationalistic fervor combined with having an adolescent at the helm of a nuclear arsenal has put our country and our world at risk.

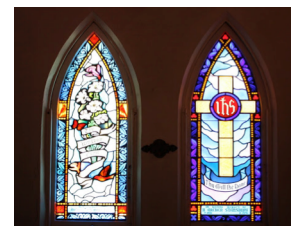
You may like this “tough person, bully” persona. You may embrace this “me first” ideology but if you do, do so on your own. Do not bring Jesus into it.

If you do, you have forgotten his words. You have refused to believe. There is no way one can experience the story we heard this Easter season and at the same time embrace the rash, bravado of these current times. For Jesus’ life embodied love, non-violence, compassion, mercy and forgiveness. Jesus’ death was at the hands of a system that embraced capital punishment and put to death an innocent man. God’s response was to overcome this violent death, not vengeance. Not with missiles and bombs but in a non-threatening, peaceful way: Jesus’ resurrection.

This is the story the women remembered and believed. Naïve? Perhaps. But so is the notion that violence makes for peace. So is the notion that violence makes us safe. So is the notion that greatness equals power. So is the notion that any one people’s lives are more precious to God than another’s.

May we, this Easter Season, with the women, remember and believe. May we go and tell those in power we refuse to forget, we refuse to stop believing.

Blessings,
Angela



Celebration of Window Renovation

Directly following services on May 21, there will be a special coffee hour to celebrate the completion of the project to restore the stained glass windows. Elder Stephen Van Dyk will lead a discussion in the sanctuary on the history of the windows and a representative from Willet Hauser, the company the completed the project will discuss the work that was done.

MAY CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

May 7 Communion Sunday
May 16 Session 6:30 pm
May 21 Celebration of Window Renovation
May 29 Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am – 11:00 am

Strawberry Festival Saturday, June 10

Welcome New Members

We welcome the following new members who joined the church on Sunday, April 23: Faith Alexandre, Diane Conklin, Marilyn Grosbeck, Nanette Michelmores, Emma Schwartz, Andrew Schwartz, Colleen Vanderhoef, Beverly Warwick, Tracey Weigel.

Session Meeting

Session will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday May 16. The meeting will begin by sharing a meal with the members of the Communicants Class and hearing their statements of faith.

The recent Music to Table “New Orleans North” Jazz Benefit Concert to raise money for People to People was a huge success. 121 people gathered together on a freezing (15° degrees) Saturday night, March 4, to listen to Michael Shapiro on the piano and organ, Jim Kimak on the sax, Jeff Doctorow on guitar along with the Mark Sganga Trio, blow the roof off of the Sanctuary. The audience clapped and cheered and even danced throughout the night as they followed Jim back into the Parish House for a convivial wine reception to the tune of “When the Saints Come Marching In” at the end of the concert. A Wonderful, joyous evening was had by all!

Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast



Monday, May 30, 8:00 – 11:00 am
\$8 Adults - \$3 Children Under 12

Deacons' Corner

April went by quickly and kept us busy with Easter preparations and tasks. This month the Deacons will be asking for everyone's help as we start with preparations for the Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 10. There's something for everyone to do. Sign-up sheets will soon be up asking for help in hulling, baking shortcake, serving and also setting up and breaking down after the festival. Many choices for you, please sign up. We need all the help we can get!

In the meantime, if you need a ride to church call Jim Rubenstone. For special Prayer requests call Stephen Van Dyk.

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Articles due by the 20th day of the preceding month * Editor Maria Gagliardi * palpresny10964@gmail.com