



PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PALISADES
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



— REFLECTIONS —

*“The sun will be darkened...
and the powers in the heavens
will be shaken.”
-Mark 13:24-25*

“A blessing” wrote poet Jan Richardson is a “constellation of words designed to call upon and convey God’s deepest desire for our wholeness and well-being...blessings illuminate the link between the sacred and the ordinary...[they] enable us to perceive the ways the sacred inhabits the ordinary, impressing upon us that every moment and each place lies within the circle of God’s care.” This Advent season, the time of preparing and waiting for Christ to be born into our world, we especially need a blessing. There is so much pain---mass shootings, hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires---we need to remember that all things lie within the circle of God’s love.

When the world appears to be falling apart, the Advent texts remind us that with the coming birth of Jesus the old age is passing away and a new age is beginning. The world, as the writer of Mark observes, is coming to an end.

So I have chosen a blessing written by Jan Richardson that speaks to world endings and challenges us to participate in the healing God offers us when our worlds fall apart.

May we accept the blessing given to us this Advent season.

My Own Blessings to You This
Advent,
Angela

Look, the world
is always ending
somewhere.

Somewhere
the sun has come
crashing down.

Somewhere
it has gone
completely dark.

Somewhere
it has ended with the gun,
the knife,
the fist.

Somewhere
it has ended with the slammed
door,
the shattered hope.
Somewhere
it has ended
with the utter quiet
that follows the news
from the phone,
the television,
the hospital room.

Somewhere
it has ended
with a tenderness
that will break your heart.

But, listen,
this blessing means
to be anything
but morose.
It has not come
to cause despair.

It is here
simply because
there is nothing
a blessing
is better suited for
than an ending,

Nothing that cries out more
for a blessing
than when a world
is falling apart.

This blessing
will not fix you
will not mend you,
will not give you
false comfort;
It will not talk to you
about one door opening
when another one closes.

It will simply
sit itself beside you
among the shards
and gently turn your face
toward the direction
from which the light
will come,
gathering itself
about you
as the world begins again.

Christmas Eve Services

10:00 am Advent Service

5:30 pm Family
Christmas Eve Service

11:00 pm Service of
Lessons and Carols



DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

- 3 Communion 10:00 am
- Congregational meeting 11:00 am
- Advent Pot luck/wreath making 5:00 pm
- 10 Ordination/installation of new officers
- 12 Session 7:30 pm
- 14 Greening of the church
- 16 Officer Training 9:30 am-12:00 pm
- 17 Pageant 10:00 am
- 24 Services 10:00 am, 5:30 pm, 11:00 pm

Hanging of the Greens

The church will be decorated for Christmas on Thursday, December 14 at 6:30 pm. Come and help Bob and Beatrice Rasmussen with this annual activity.

Sunday, December 17 during morning worship the Sunday School children present "The Christmas Story."

Congregational Meeting:

A brief meeting will be held following services on December 3 to receive the report of the Nominating Committee. The slate of new officers will be presented and voted on.

Ordination/Installation:

The officers elected at the congregational meeting will be ordained/installed during worship on December 10.

Officer Training:

Elders and Deacons who will be serving the congregation in 2018 will attend a time of training and planning for the year on Saturday, December 16 from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm in the Parish House.

Annual Advent Wreath-Making and Potluck

On Sunday, December 3, at 5:00 pm we will enjoy a potluck supper together, then make Advent Wreaths and sing Christmas Carols. Bring your own wreath form. The church will provide pine roping, candles and some decorations. Please bring a dish or dessert to share, and any additional decorations, greens/items from your yards to decorate the wreaths (holly, pine cones, evergreen cuttings, boxwood, bittersweet, etc.). All are welcome! Bring a friend!

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.



Deacons Corner

November was quite a busy month for the Deacons as we assisted in the baptizing celebration party of Dory Angeloro. Two weeks later we had our Agape service to which we all brought in some food contributions for the potluck brunch. All Deacons plus Elders helped with the clean-up. It was great Team work, thank you all!

Currently there is a sign-up sheet for donations for poinsettias which will be distributed by the Deacons after they adorn the sanctuary for Christmas. If you know of anyone who suffered a loss or went through hardship otherwise, please let us know.

Wishing you all an exciting Advent time and most of all a Merry Christmas!

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.

Pastor Reverend Angela Maddalone * pastorajm@gmail.com * 845-359-3147 * www.palpresny.org
Secretary Tamika Adjemian * Office Hours Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 am – 3:00 pm * ppc10964@gmail.com
Mailing address: Palisades Presbyterian Church, PO Box 687, Palisades, NY 10964
Articles due by the 20th day of the preceding month * Editor Maria Gagliardi * palpresny10964@gmail.com