



PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PALISADES
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



— REFLECTION —

“Once upon a time there was a woman, and she was wicked as wicked could be, and she died. And not one good deed was left behind her. The devils took her and threw her into the lake of fire. And her guardian angel stood thinking: what good deed of hers can I remember to tell God? Then he remembered and said to God: once she pulled up an onion and gave it to a beggar woman. And God answered: take now that same onion, hold it out to her in the lake, let her take hold of it and pull, and if you pull her out of the lake, she can go to paradise. The angel ran to the woman and held out the onion to her: here, woman, he said, take hold of it and I’ll pull. And he began pulling carefully, and had almost pulled her all of the way out, when other sinners in the lake saw her being pulled out and all began holding on to her so as to be pulled out with her. But the woman was wicked as wicked could be, and she began to kick them with her feet: ‘It’s me who’s getting pulled out, not you; it’s my onion, not yours.’ No sooner did she say it than the onion broke. And the woman fell back into the lake and is burning there to this day. And the angel wept and went away.”

(From The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoevsky)

This parable from The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoevsky has a lot to say about God’s kingdom and a lot about human beings. God, it seems, is constantly imagining a way for us that is generous, forgiving, merciful, compassionate and intentional about loving. We on the other hand generally want a world that focuses on the individual; a world that disregards others around us, especially those we’ve labeled undeserving. The woman took her eyes off the angel who offered her a way out. Instead she turns her gaze in the opposite direction focusing on her privilege and her attempts to keep it for herself.

The late 20th century theologian, Dorothy Soelle used this story in one of her books where she observed that the more the others hang onto the old woman the more unbreakable the onion becomes. It’s when the woman kicks away her “hitchhikers” that the onion breaks. Soelle suggests; “If grabbing hold means death, then sharing means life. It seems no one can save themselves alone.” And concerning the old woman: “Her will is divided. She wants forgiveness but because she wants it only for herself she destroys it.”

We are now in the Easter season when we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. Most people understand Easter as the time we’re celebrating life after death. But for me what God is really celebrating is life...this life...more specifically, life in God’s realm. God, it would seem is deeply committed to love and life in the here and now.

As most of us have realized at some point in our lives, no set of beliefs can bring us new life. According to the Jesus who was resurrected, new life comes to us when we live our lives in a new way, the way of Jesus; the way of merciful, generous, compassionate love.

Hold on to the “onions” held out to us in life and keep your eyes on the angels holding them, rejoicing with all who join us on the journey.

Happy Easter, He is Risen!
Angela



On April 1, the Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 6:30 am in the garden of the Parish House behind Palisades Church. All are welcome. The service is followed by a delicious potluck breakfast.

Our traditional Easter Sunday celebration will take place at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary.

Easter Egg Hunt at 11:00 am following worship. All children are welcome.

APRIL CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

- April 1 Easter Sunday, worship at 6:30 am & 10:00 am
Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 am following worship
- April 8 Communion Sunday
- April 10 Session 7:30 pm
- April 13 Family movie night 7:00 pm
- April 15 Hospice Walk to Remember, Rockland Lake State Park, North Entrance, 8:00 am
- April 21 Spring Clean Up, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- April 25 Teen Meeting, 6:00 pm

Deacons' Corner

Not much news from this corner except that we're glad to have made it through the March Nor'easter blitz that blanketed us with snow and tree limbs. Looking forward to Spring and an early Easter!

All else stays the same: for rides to and/or from worship contact Margaret Allen, for prayer requests call Stephen Van Dyk, for casseroles contact Denise Cae Tilberis. If a memorial service or any other event is being held at the church contact John Guzewich to help coordinate the service. If you would like a personal deacon please let someone on the Board of Deacons or Angela know and we will provide someone for you. We are here to serve all in need!



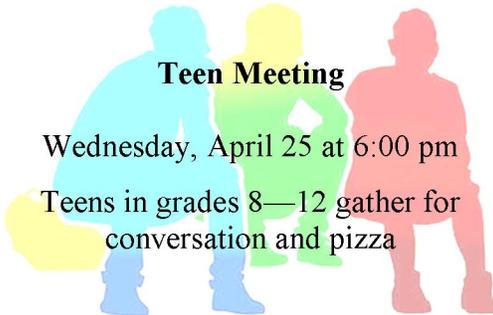
The 7th ANNUAL WALK TO REMEMBER will be held at Rockland Lake State Park in Congers at 8:00 am. United Hospice of Rockland invites individuals and families who have been touched by Hospice to come together and walk, side by side, to remember our loved ones!
Registration required.



Family Movie Night
April 13, 7:00 pm
Pizza and Popcorn!

Teen Meeting

Wednesday, April 25 at 6:00 pm
Teens in grades 8—12 gather for conversation and pizza



Spring Clean Up

Saturday, April 21
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Join us to help keep the church beautiful!

Sign up sheets in the Parish House

Or contact Sue Webb:
swebbstah@aol.com
Bring a friend!!!



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