



PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PALISADES
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



— R E F L E C T I O N S —

The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope.

-Wendell Berry

The other day I went to the Central Park Zoo and sat in front of the sea lions for almost an hour. What struck me was their desire to engage the crowd. At one point one of the sea lions got up on a rock close to some children and actually seemed to be playing with them. No zookeepers were around. No treats to be had. They appeared to be enjoying the company of the crowd. I began to wonder aloud to my friend: "Just because their intelligence is different from ours does not mean ours is better. Maybe I need to think about becoming a vegetarian." My friend, who is a vegetarian, laughed. He pointed to the sea lions and said "They aren't vegetarians. They eat fish."

The conversation made me think about what it means to be stewards of the earth and all its inhabitants. Does it mean, as many believe, to have dominion over it and use up its resources without concern for future generations? Or, does it compel us to care for it and all its creatures? In Genesis, an argument can be made for the former. God tells humankind to subjugate the land and its inhabitants.

But isn't this a primitive way of looking at it? For the ancients, it was necessary for their survival to "subdue" the earth and have dominion over its creatures. They were not in danger of destroying the planet through their weapons or industry. They subdued the land in order to grow food and had dominion over the wild animals for the same reason. In a pre-industrial world, it was necessary.

Today, we are in danger of decimating our planet and its creatures, including humans. Never before has it been so necessary to take the latter approach and care for our planet. The late psychoanalyst, Carl Jung from the 20th century, worried that our technological advances did not match our ethical advances. He did not believe we

had the ethical capacity to have weapons of mass destruction, for example. I think he is right.

The current debate around climate change is to the point. I could never understand the desire to oppose creating technology that provides clean energy. Whether or not a person believes the science, don't we all want clean air to breath, fresh water to drink? Don't we all want to be working at jobs that don't negatively affect our mental and physical health like working in a coal mine does. How can we not all benefit from caring for this planet?

As we live into the Easter season living as resurrection people, may we recognize the unique intelligence of God's good creation and may we commit to its preservation. If you have any doubts go and sit in front of the sea lions at the zoo for a while. They will change your mind.

Blessings, Angela

Deacons' Corner

Well, we think the winter is finally gone which means it is time for the Deacons, the congregation and the community, to start looking forward to the Strawberry Festival. April went by pretty quickly with the school breaks, and Holy Week and Easter preparations. June will be here before we know it.

This month the Deacons will be asking for everyone's help as we start the preparations for the Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 9. Sign-up sheets will soon be posted asking for shortcake bakers, strawberry hullers, servers, the pocket lady, and help setting up before and breaking down after the festival. There are many choices for everyone to help, so please sign up. We need all the help we can get! Also, get the word out about the festival; tell your family, friends, and co-worker to put it on their calendar so they can come and enjoy shortcake and conversation (it is sort of like Coffee Hour from 2 to 6 pm).

As usual, 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. We are here to serve all in need!

MAY CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

May 2 Parent Group, 7:00 pm

May 6 Communion Sunday

May 8 Session, 7:30 pm

May 28 Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am – 11:00 am

Strawberry Festival Saturday, June 9

Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast



Monday, May 28, 8:00 – 11:00 am

Adults - \$8.00

Children under 12 - \$3.00



Project:

Accessibility Project

Palisades Presbyterian Church
117 Washington Spring Road
Palisades, NY 10964

Drawing:

Proposed Entrance Ramp

Date: 16 April 2018

pfaff architects

208 Foss Drive
Upper Nyack, NY 10960

845.358.1119 phone www.pfaffarchitects.com

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Above is the revised design for the accessibility ramp that will be presented to the HABR meeting on May 8. Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts and comments at our community meeting earlier this year.

Pastor Reverend Angela Maddalone * pastorajm@gmail.com * 845-359-3147 *

Pastor Office Hours Tuesday & Friday 10:30 am – 12:30 pm; Wednesday 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

Angela is available any time by appointment to meet your needs

Administrative Assistant Jane Cowan * Office Hours Wednesday & Friday 9:30 am – 2:30 pm
ppc10964@gmail.com * www.palpresny.org

Mailing address: Palisades Presbyterian Church, PO Box 687, Palisades, NY 10964