



# PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PALISADES  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



## — REFLECTIONS —

*“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,  
if you have love for one another”  
-John 13:35*

The hardest thing about being a Christian in America is to be a Christian. The particular American brand of Christianity has often confused national identity and secular values with the teachings of Jesus. So for many, being a Christian in America is to be a Christian. The particular American brand of Christianity has often confused national identity and secular values with the teachings of Jesus. So for many, being an American is synonymous with being a follower of Jesus.

This however is a form of idolatry. We have created the Gospel in our image, we have put God and Jesus into a box we can control and we have distorted the mandates of Jesus and the prophets to support our particular ideologies. This has had devastating consequences.

We are living through perilous and polarizing times as a country and Christianity has been the rallying cry of many. It is time for us to reclaim Jesus if we are ever going to live out the Good News faithfully.

To this end Sojourners whose catch phrase, “Building a Movement to Transform the World,” summarizes their mission, has offered a statement for American Christians to embrace and educational resources to reclaim Jesus.

This past year our Bible Study group studied Brian McLaren’s book, The Great Spiritual Migration. In it he argued that for Christianity to be relevant it needed to migrate from a system of beliefs of a way of life, the way of Jesus, the way of Love.

Similarly, those who are joining the, Reclaiming Jesus Movement are arguing that it is time for us to be followers of Jesus before anything else--nationality, political party, race, ethnicity, gender, geography. Rather, our identity in Christ precedes every other identity.

This fall, I will begin a sermon series based on the Reclaiming Jesus Movement. I will be using the study resources found on their website ([www.ReclaimingJesus.org](http://www.ReclaimingJesus.org)). Following worship, there will be an opportunity to discuss the themes covered in the sermons. My hope is that those present at church will stay for the conversation.

The questions to be explored in the series include: Who is Jesus Christ for us today? What does our loyalty to Christ, as disciples, require at this moment in our history? The authors of the statement have declared: “We believe it is time to renew our theology of public discipleship and witness. Applying what “Jesus is Lord” means today is the message we commend as elders to our churches.”

As our program year begins, may we remember our Baptismal vows and commit to nurturing our relationship with God, ourselves and our neighbors in the name of our Lord Jesus the Christ who announced the reign of God is at hand.

Blessings, Angela



### Welcome Back Choir!

Our wonderful choir will start leading us in song again on Sunday, September 9. I would like to extend an invitation to anyone in the congregation who might be interested in singing with us to contact me at any time. Rehearsals will be held on Sundays after worship.

Michael Shapiro, Music Director



**Welles Remy Crowther**  
Charitable Trust

SINCE 2001

### **Concert for Remembrance at Grace Church**

The annual Concert for Remembrance of 9/11 will be held Sunday, September 9, at 5:00 pm at the Grace Episcopal Church, 130 First Avenue, Nyack, NY. Sponsored by the Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust, the concert is given in memory of all the victims and heroes of the attacks against our country on September 11, 2001 Everyone is welcome and there is no charge for admission.

### **Sermon Series This Fall: Reclaiming Jesus.**

Based the resources from Sojourners, [www.sojo.net](http://www.sojo.net); [www.reclaimingjesus.org](http://www.reclaimingjesus.org)  
Sermon conversations following worship beginning Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>



## Directory Update

Please remember to inform Jane if there is a change in your mailing address, e-mail or other contact information. Our directory is only as accurate as the information provided.

Call the office at 845-359-3147 or e-mail Jane at [ppc10964@gmail.com](mailto:ppc10964@gmail.com) with any changes, edits or just to confirm the information we have.

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

- 9 Choir resumes  
Sunday School begins  
Blessing of the backpacks  
Welcome back picnic at Douglas' house after worship
- 11 Session 7:30 pm
- 16 Sermon Conversations Following Worship begins

### Blessing of the Back Packs and First Day of Sunday School

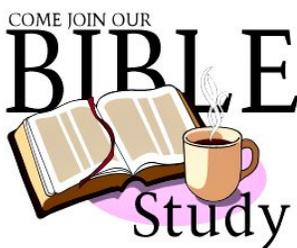
Sunday, September 10, 10:00 am. Bring your backpacks to worship and we will say a special blessing for the beginning of the school year!



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### Bible Study Resumes Wednesday September 12th

At 12:15 p.m. All are Welcome!



### Confirmation Class

Angela will once again be teaching a confirmation class this year for students in grades 7th and up. The class will meet on 3 Wednesday nights a month beginning October 17th in the Parish House from 5:30 to 6:30pm. A light snack will be served at each meeting. The last Wednesday of the month is Teen Group. The confirmation class is welcome to join in the fun!

Please let Angela know if your child will be attending and feel free to invite others who may not be church members but might want their child to receive confirmation. Angela teaches from a Reformed Christian perspective but includes lessons on other religions. She encourages the kids to explore their beliefs and how they impact their lives and their doubts. The class will attend an overnight confirmation retreat the Winter/Spring 2019 Time and place to be announced.

There will be a joint mission project/ trip and hopefully a visit to another place of worship

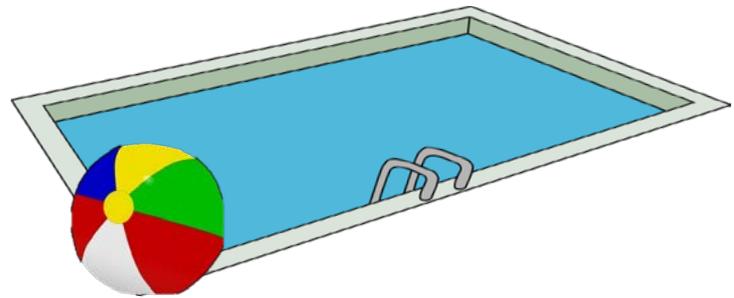
### Deacons' Corner

Well that seemed like a quick summer; they seem to get faster every year. We are now getting back into the swing of things with our usual tasks. As always, we are ready to serve all in need!

For rides to and/or from worship contact Margaret Allen, for casseroles contact Denise Cae Tilberis, for special prayers call Stephen van Dyk, and if a memorial service or any other event is being held at the church contact John Guzewich to help coordinate the service!

Welcome back everyone!

**Welcome Back Picnic and Pool Party** following worship on Sunday, September 9th at the home of Marjorie Douglas (275 Kings Highway, Orangeburg). Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish House.



### Teen Group

Our teen group meets the last Wednesday of the month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for conversation and pizza. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, October 31st! We will be carving pumpkins!



### Parent Group

The parent group meets the first Wednesday of the month beginning Wednesday, September 5th from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

All parents/guardians are welcome. Join us and bring a friend!