



PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PALISADES
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



— REFLECTIONS —

“Gratitude as a discipline involves a conscious choice.

I can choose to be grateful even when my emotions and feelings are still steeped in hurt and resentment.

It’s amazing how many occasions present themselves in which I can choose gratitude instead of complain.”

-Henri Nouwen

It may seem odd that in the wake of so much suffering in the world, I chose a quote about gratitude for this month’s reflection. The senseless, hate inspired, shooting of our Jewish sisters and brothers in Pittsburg still echoes in our hearts.

There is no way to make sense of the hatred that infects some people’s hearts to the point that they are compelled to carry out violent acts. We can only pray for them as Jesus asks us to as impossible a task as that may be. We can only pray for the families of the victims. In the aftermath, we can only let go of the “why” questions and focus on ways to grieve and then act toward redemptive practices that will build bridges in the world instead of walls.

Tragedy can affect us in many ways, we can become angry, bitter, fearful and close ourselves off from relationships. Or, as the late Henri Nouwen so eloquently wrote we can embrace a life of gratitude.

No matter what the circumstances of lives, grateful living is a choice we can make. Even in the midst of grief and suffering we can choose to live a joyful, grateful life. This choice is a choice for life in the midst of death.

I once told a friend that as a spiritual discipline I say thank you each night before I go to sleep and each morning when I wake up. He asked, “Even when you had a bad day?” I answered, “Especially when I’ve had a bad day.” It is our way of trusting our life to God, trusting our life to a future we cannot see.

Author Dr. Brene Brown writes of happiness, joy and gratitude: “happiness is attached to external situations and events and seems to ebb and flow as those circumstances come and go. Joy seems to be constantly tethered to our hearts by spirit and gratitude.” For Dr. Brown gratitude is an extremely important part of our journey to wholehearted living and relationships because it leads us to a sense of satisfaction and joy. As we mourn, may we look for ways to be grateful for the blessings around us. In this season of Thanksgiving, may gratitude motivate us to advocate for change: change in gun laws, change in the ways we experience difference, change in the ways we commit ourselves to naming and denouncing antisemitism, racism and prejudice in all its forms. In this way may we be a blessing to God and others.

Blessings,

Angela



“Agape” Sunday: A Joint Love Feast Brunch and Service Celebration!

On Sunday November 4th, 2018 we will celebrate our 4th "AGAPE" Breakfast Service! Once again we will assemble in the Parish Hall at 10:00AM to share a "Love Feast" breakfast, and Morning Service, giving THANKS for our Church and our Church Family. A delicious breakfast will be served, hymns will be sung, prayers and readings will be shared. We need you to please RSVP as we will be counting heads to make sure we have enough food and places set at the tables! There will be a SIGN-UP POSTER in the Parish Hall, and/or you can RSVP by e-mailing nvoneckard@aol.com OR ppc10964@gmail.com or calling the Church at 845-359-3147 and leaving a message. Please let us know how many you will be and be sure to mark your calendars! Thank you!
ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!

Annual Collection for Thanksgiving in Harlem

Annual collection for Thanksgiving in Harlem. A contribution of \$25 can provide a family sized meal with all the trimming to shut-in seniors in Harlem. Please make out checks to Palisades Presbyterian Church and mark "turkey" in the memo section. We will collect through November 18th.



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.

Why I Pledge

I have been an unconscious rampaging Presbyterian from the age of three. As a very little girl, we went to 10th Presbyterian Church on Spruce Street in Philadelphia. The minister was Donald Barnhouse and to this day when his name is mentioned, people go "Oooooooh";. He was amazing.

When I arrived at Palisades Presbyterian, I had no idea what to expect. I came to sing in the choir. Period. I had not thought it through beyond that. Little by little I was drawn into the life of the church. I began by offering to make posters...I helped with Memorial Receptions, and Festivals and before I knew it...I was a deacon. I understood being a deacon. I love helping people and doing things for people so that was a good fit.

Then before I knew it, I was on Session. What a surprise!!!

It was not until then, that I realized the importance of pledging. Of course it is about how much money people pledge....but above and beyond that, it is about the church knowing how much money they can count on each year. I have always given more of my time than I can afford to give money. But no matter how much you can or cannot afford to give financially.....every little bit counts and helps. When we pledge in the late FALL.....we give the church a road map for the coming year. We help the church know what they can COUNT ON...we count on the church for fellowship and spiritual comfort and something else I found that I had not thought about when I first began to SING.....FAMILY..... A few months after I began singing in the choir, I looked around the Parish Hall one morning and realized I HAD COME HOME!!! Robert Frost wrote: "HOME is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you"

I pledge because I always want the church to be able to keep their doors OPEN for me, when I have to go there!!!!

Nina von Eckardt

Deacons' Corner

It seems like fall is finally settling in! It was a great joy for the Deacons to be a part of the Memorial Service on October 20 th for Henry Shaw, our dear friend and one of the great saints of our church. He will be missed by everyone.

A friendly reminder not to forget to change your clock the first weekend of the month, or else you won't find any hot coffee ready yet!! We wish for everyone to have a wonderful Thanksgiving with good food and family and friends. Even in these times in our country and around the world, we still have a lot of things to be thankful for.

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!

Advent Wreath-Making & Potluck Supper

December 2, 5:30 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!

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

- 4 Agape Service in Parish House
- 7 Confirmation 5:30pm
Parent Support Group 7pm
- 11 Deacon's Meeting 11:30am
- 13 Session, 7:30 pm
- 14 Confirmation 5:30pm
- 21 No Bible Study/No Confirmation
- 28 Teen Group, 5:30 pm

December 2

Advent Potluck Supper, 5:30 pm

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

Secretary Jane Cowan * Office Hours Wednesday & Friday 9:30 am – 2:30 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 Jane Cowan

* palpresny10964@gmail.com