



PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PALISADES
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



— REFLECTIONS —

“Grace—gifts given without being earned and with no expectation of return—”

— Diana Butler Bass

Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks

Lent, I must confess is my favorite season of the liturgical year. I’m not sure why but I believe it’s because I find it comforting. Traditionally it was the time when you give up something. I cannot tell you the many years as a child I deprived myself of candy for the 40 days before Easter.

But Lent is so much more. If we do give something up it’s not out of deprivation but in order to create more space for God, for ourselves, and others. Try thinking about it in this way and you will be surprised.

This year during Lent I will be focusing my sermons on Gratitude. Using Diana Butler Bass’ new book, *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*, as a resource, I will explore how the spiritual discipline of gratitude is able to redirect our lives and the narratives we tell and live by.

For Bass, gratitude is not about stuff. It is “the emotional response to the surprise of our very existence, to sensing that inner light and realizing the astonishing sacred, social, and scientific events that brought each one of us into being. We cry out like the psalmist, ‘I am fearfully and wonderfully made!’ (Ps. 139:14).”

Another Lenten ritual we will be reviving again this year is the Labyrinth Walk. Lynn Brown will join us on April 6th beginning at 4:30 p.m. With her large canvas labyrinth she will invite us to embark on the spiritual meditative path that has been traveled for centuries. Curious? She will talk to us about labyrinths and how they can aid us in our journey.

As we Repent, Reflect, Recharge and Redirect our lives this Lent may we do so with joy and gratitude.



During World War II and immediately following, Protestant churches made appeals for relief and reconstruction. In 1949, church leaders from several denominations organized an appeal to convey the importance of strengthening the relief and rehabilitation work of the churches overseas. By pulling together, they could prove to the world the great power generated when Christians unite in a common cause.

In 1950, the title “One Great Hour of Sharing” was used for the first time. Its goal was to make the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffered the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Sixty-eight years later “One Great Hour of Sharing” is supported by eight different Christian denominations and the purpose remains the same: collect a special offering to help those in need.

Through our OGHS offering to PCUSA, we support the three critical missions of the church: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) and Self-Development of People (SDOP). PDA provides support for refugees and works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of a disaster; PHP takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and address the systemic causes of poverty; and SDOP partners with communities to respond to their experiences of poverty and injustice. These programs are working all around the globe and right here at home in Rockland County, through grants that support local programs like the Lighthouse Project, which works with documented and undocumented immigrants locally to advocate for themselves. Your gift will help to support this important work and more.

Ash Wednesday

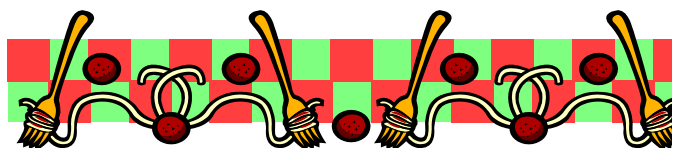
This year’s Ash Wednesday Service will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm on March 6th. The service will feature quiet meditation, singing of hymns, and the traditional imposition of ashes.

DEACONS' CORNER

The PC USA calls deacons to a ministry of “compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress.” Sounds like a lot of responsibility, but it is really not. We are here to serve all in need! In the past, Deacons were assigned to congregation members such that everyone had a “personal Deacon” that they could reach out to or confide in during times of need. If anyone in the congregation would prefer to have a personal Deacon please let someone on the Board of Deacons or Angela know, and we will provide someone for you. The Board of Deacons contact information is included in the bulletin the first week of each month. As far as weather in February goes, this past one has not been too bad. As we get into the month of March, let’s hope Spring weather is not too far off!

As we begin the season of Lent please know that we are ready with a helping hand! This year, during the Lenten Season, we are going to have a slightly reduced coffee hour “spread” after the Services to follow some of the Lenten traditions. Don’t worry, there will still be plenty of food and treats for all but there will be no meat or dairy offerings.

Contact Denise Cae Tilberis if you or someone you know needs a casserole or a dinner. For rides to and/or from worship contact Margaret Allen. If a memorial service or any other event is being held at the church contact John Guzewich to help coordinate the service. For prayer requests or get well cards you may contact Stephen Van Dyk. We ask for continued prayers for all who need God’s healing presence in mind, body, and spirit including Bigelow and family, Mary Baier’s family, Richard, Ernie & Rich, Jane, Jack, Mary Ann, Christopher, Josh, Marilyn, and Helen. Please keep everyone in your prayers.



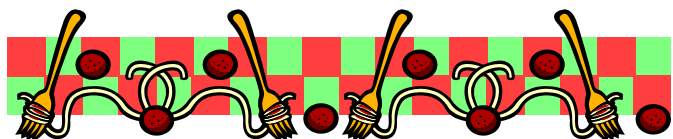
Spaghetti Dinner

Brought to you by the children of the
Palisades Presbyterian Church
to benefit United Hospice of Rockland

Date: Friday, March 31
Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

\$8.00 Adults
\$5.00 Children 12 & under
\$20.00 families of four or more

Spaghetti & Meatballs
Salad & Bread
Dessert



MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

March 3rd Communion
March 6th Ash Wednesday, 7:00 pm
March 17th Ruling Elder Erik Simon
March 31st Spaghetti Dinner, 5:30 -7:30 pm

Study Leave

Rev. Maddalone will be on Study Leave
March 11 – 19. Please call the Church or
Rev. Katie Rivera Torrea 567-224-2297
for pastoral emergencies.

Save the Date Labyrinth Meditative Walk
Lead by Lynn Brown
Saturday April 6th 4:30 pm