



PAL PRES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

PALISADES
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



— REFLECTIONS —

“28 So you also on the outside look righteous to others, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. 29 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous...

You snakes, you brood of vipers! How can you escape being sentenced to hell? 34 Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, 35 so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth...*

- Matthew 23.28-38

Last month I celebrated the 20th anniversary of my ordination. Over those years I have preached many sermons. What I always find interesting is how people react to them. Sometimes people are generous in their praise and criticism...that's fair...but what always surprises me is the feedback that my sermons are often political.

Now I am not about to defend myself here other than to say, the Gospel is political. People are always surprised when I offer this explanation because we have domesticated Jesus' message over the past two thousand years. We've turned him into a nice guy with blond hair and blue eyes blessing the children who sat on his lap. Jesus however was a dark skinned Middle Eastern man who spoke Aramaic, not the King's English.

He was also political. As we see in the above quote from Matthew, he called out the hypocrisy of the religious elite of his day. Those who talked the talk but trampled on the needs of the poor. He overturned the tables of the money changers open for business in the courtyard of the Jerusalem temple, an event not unnoticed by those in power...and an action, many scholars agree, was the reason they sought to have him crucified. And let's not forget Palm Sunday, where Jesus staged a march... a protest against the Roman Empire itself.

This is not the "Jesus loves me this I know Jesus". This Jesus was political and the Gospel is political.

And to borrow a theme from the 1960 feminist movement, "the personal is political" also. Which is why the admonition of the 20th century theologian, Karl Barth to all clergy rings true: "Preach with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other."

We cannot as followers of Jesus put our heads in the sand in the face of injustice. When we hear about the mistreatment of immigrants, the cutting of programs for the poor, the trampling of the reproductive rights of women, the policies created to keep systematic racism in place, the use of religion by politicians to advance their greed driven agendas just to name a few issues in need of transformation, we have to speak up.

Jesus was not crucified for being a nice guy or for our sins. He was crucified because he was a threat to those in power. Paul was not imprisoned for teaching about Jesus, he was imprisoned because he claimed that Jesus was Lord, not Caesar. The personal is indeed political. It was for Jesus and it is for us.

There is much happening in our country and in the world. As followers of Jesus we are called to make the personal political too.

Blessings,
Angela

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Joanna Albin for her many years of dedicated service as our Sunday School Teacher. Thank you Joanna!.



Thanks and appreciation to Marjorie Douglas for once again inviting us to have the welcome back picnic in her beautiful garden.



Handicap Entrance Update

The railings for the ramp are in and will be installed. It should be complete by next week!

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:00 am
Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

- 2 Parent Support Group, 7:00 pm
- 6 Deacons Meeting, 11:15 am
- 19 Saturday Fall Clean Up, 9:00 am -12:00 pm

ELDERS 2019 SESSION

Tracey Weigel **Nominating**

Roger Buck **Personnel**

Michael Shapiro **Worship**

Lori Hylton **Operations**

Erik Simon **Mission**

Rev Angela Maddalone **Moderator**

Bill Menke **Clerk of Session**

Sue Webb **Treasurer**

BOARD OF DEACONS 2019

Moderator Jim Rubenstone

Food Chain Denise Cae Tilberis

Secretary Lois Collura

Events & PalPres John Guzewich

Kitchen Supplies Johanna Albin

Joys & Concerns Stephen Van Dyk (alt. John Guzewich)

Nominating & Events Robert Moore

Transportation Margaret Allen

Deacons' Corner

September went by quickly and we are back to our regular duties with the Holidays seemingly just around the corner. Nothing special to report, we had a nice welcome back picnic at Marjorie Douglas' in September. Just a reminder to all that use the kitchen. Please make sure the ovens are turned off when you are done and make sure that doors of the refrigerator are shut firmly and remove any leftovers that "have done their time".

As usual, for rides to and/or from worship contact Margaret Allen, 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! 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 Ernie & Rich, Jane, Jack, Mary Ann, Emma, Jim, & Jennifer, Josh & Denise. Please keep everyone in your prayers. Have a happy Halloween!



FALL CLEAN UP



Saturday October 19th

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Janes Office Hours are now

Tuesday 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Friday 10:00 am – 3:00 pm



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 with any changes, edits or just to confirm the information we have.

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