



PALISADES
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



— REFLECTIONS —

“I think there must be something wrong with me, Linus.

Christmas is coming, but I’m not happy.

I don’t feel the way I’m supposed to feel...

I like getting presents and sending Christmas cards, and decorating trees and all that,

But I’m still not happy.

I always end up feeling depressed.”

-Charlie Brown, Charles Schulz

“What do you do when you don’t feel happy and jolly at Christmas?” someone asked me once. I thought about the above quote from “A Charlie Brown Christmas by Charles Schulz. Charlie Brown had the blues at Christmas time and his best friend Linus’ response was to urge him to get involved with something meaningful and to remind him of the real meaning of Christmas.

That is one way of handling it, true, but it doesn’t help people who are truly struggling during this season of joy and good cheer. Maybe a loved one died around the holiday or someone is having difficulties with a job or a relationship or is dealing with chronic depression? The pressure to feel “happy” during this season is enormous and adds to the guilt of not being able to do so.

A more helpful response is to give the person permission to feel what they are feeling without judgement or guilt. Acknowledge what they are experiencing, name it and be kind. We cannot help what we feel.

We can also urge a person to get help if they need it. If the feelings are beyond one’s ability to handle, look for resources to get through the season. Reach out to friends, clinics, faith communities, therapists... there is help and people who care.

As the parable of the Christmas story is told in the Gospel of Luke Jesus was born under desperate circumstances to bring good news to the poor...to bring good news to those who are unable to access it. Not to be jolly. Perhaps remembering this good news can help with the Christmas blues. To honor this reality we will hold a “Blue Christmas” prayer service together with Central Presbyterian Church and Germonds Presbyterian Church on Sunday, December 22, 2019 in our Sanctuary at 4:30 p.m.

This simple worship will be a time of prayer, sharing and lighting candles in the darkness, as well as blessing the darkness and the gifts it brings to us.

Join us for this holy time together

With Joy and Peace,
Angela

Christmas Eve Services

5:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service
11:00 pm Service of Lessons and Carols

We will be offering two Christmas Eve services again this year. The early service will be held at 5:30 PM and the late service at 11:00 PM. Both will feature music by our choir and traditional readings from Scripture. Please join us in our beautiful sanctuary for these very special events.

Blue Christmas Prayer Service Sunday, December 22, 2019 4:30 p.m.

Join us for a service of prayer, sharing, candle lighting and silence...an opportunity to be held by love and grace, led by Rev. Abbie Huff, Rev. Angela Maddalone and Rev. Katie Rivera Torea. Cries of ‘Merry Christmas!’ and non-stop caroling contrast with the feelings of many people at this time of year. For those suffering from the recent or impending death of loved ones, dealing with recent separation or divorce, struggling to find employment, or facing depression or family crisis, this can be a very isolated and dreary time. Every greeting and every song reminds the grief-stricken of how unhappy life is at this moment. We recognize that a lot of the Christmas celebrations do not meet everyone’s needs. To fill this gap we are offering a Blue Christmas prayer service. For more info contact Rev. Angela Maddalone: pastorajm@gmail.com

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study Wednesdays 12:15 pm

- 1 Advent Potluck 5:30 pm
- 2 Operations Meeting 7:30 pm
- 8 Deacons Meeting 11:30 am
- 12 Hanging of the Greens 6:30 pm
- 14 Officer Training 10:00 am
- 18 Youth Group 5:45 pm
- Parent Group 7:15 pm
- 22 Blue Christmas 4:30 pm
- 24 Christmas Eve 5:30 pm
11:00 pm

Annual Advent Wreath-Making and Potluck

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!



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

IN HARLEM: We are collecting children's toys for Howie Friedman's organization: **Youth for Seniors.** Please bring unwrapped or wrapped gifts to the church on or before Christmas Eve. If they are wrapped, please indicate the age and gender for the gift.

Deacons Corner

It seems like the holiday season is finally getting here, maybe because Thanksgiving was late this year. On November 17th we had a wonderful soup and bread lunch gathering after the service. Many brought in delicious soups to share with everyone. The Deacons organized the luncheon and helped with the set-up, serving, and clean-up along with many others. It was a wonderful gathering and great Team work, thank you all! Now that we are heading towards Christmas, remember to donate for poinsettias which will be distributed by the Deacons after they adorn the sanctuary for Christmas. If you know of anyone who suffered a loss or went through hardship otherwise, please let us know. Wishing everyone an exciting Advent time and most of all a Merry Christmas! We welcome our newest member of the Deacons, Karen Berger. The Deacons are ready to serve all in need! For rides to and/or from worship contact Margaret Allen, for casseroles contact Madeleine Bassil, 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 and provide any support needed. Prayers for those who are sick and need God's healing presence, including Emma, Mary Ann, Helen, Denise, Rich and Ernie, Jack, Sue and Josh. May God be with all who continue to grieve in our church community and throughout the globe.

Hanging of the Greens

Want to do something to beautify our sanctuary and have a great time while you're at it? Then come to help with the Greening of The Church, on Thursday, December 12th at 6:30 PM! Each year, we gather to hang wreaths and sconces, erect stanchions and place candles to make our church the beautiful and magical place it always is all during The Christmas Season.



Pledge Cards: You can return your pledge cards any time by placing them in the offering plate or by bringing or mailing them to the church office. Your support is so valuable to the life and ministry of the Palisades Church.

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.

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Articles due by the 20th day of the preceding month * Editor Jane Cowan * palpresny10964@gmail.com