

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

April 2017

Pride, the Sin that Keeps Us from Eden – A Pastor's Tearful Reflection

Fake News versus Real News. Alternative Facts versus Facts. Broad sweeping allegations are often lacking substantiating data. News reports and weather reports filled with adjectives and descriptive language giving interpretive spin and commentary.



Eyes and ears fixated to computer monitors, TV screens and ears tuned in for the latest pronouncements of this or that political figure – this or that commentator – this or that insider – this or that expert.

Conservatives versus liberals – Democrats versus Republicans -- us versus them -- rich versus poor – insider versus outsiders each making pronouncements – each writing their own justifying commentary.

Missiles launch from North Korea landing in Sea of Japan. Russian spy ship sails up and down the U.S. east coast. More troops are deployed. Nations engage in military build-up. Refugees displaced by war long for a safe haven. While pressures within the earth build from unseen seeking a to release great pressures a great quake or volcanic eruption. Anxiety runs high. Cynicism grows. Mistrust increases. Lines are drawn by race, ethnicity, gender, social class, and religious perspective. Everyone claims to have the truth, *but whose truth is it?* So many say their position is the correct stance. *But, how is that so?*

Someone once said, “Reality is what you make it to be.” The human experience appears to me to have become a vast wilderness of wild beast and tempters. The Serpent that invited Adam and Eve to eat the forbidden fruit in Eden so as to become like God seems to be alive and well as egos lust for power, wealth and control. As Satan tempted Jesus with quotes of scripture, so religion has been twisted and distorted to advance causes that are neither holy nor righteous. Like Peter who claimed he’d never deny his Lord and Master on the night of arrest and kangaroo trial of Jesus – deep and significant principals of biblical teaching are misused, taken out of context or ignored.

These days are like the days the Apostle cautioned Timothy that would be coming – days when people would not listen to sound doctrine, but gather to themselves those who would tell them what their itching ears want to hear. In self-righteousness people proof text. Still proof text without context is no text, and no text without the full text is any text. And quoting the written word apart from the One who is the Living Word, is no word. As in the time of Timothy so is ours; where everyone does what is right in their own eyes. As Jesus weeps from a cross and prays for the world that nailed him to that cross, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Faintly heard is Micah: “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” While Jesus the living Word commanded; “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great commandment. A second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Ah, but the desire for control, power and to be right, keeps the spirit from saying, Lord have mercy upon me a sinner, as the Devil says, “Pride is my favorite sin.”

The logo consists of four square icons in a 2x2 grid. Top-left: a green palm frond. Top-right: a red and white wreath. Bottom-left: a black cross on a white background. Bottom-right: a yellow and black landscape with a white cross. To the right of the icons, the text "HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE" is written in a serif font, with "HOLY WEEK" on the top line, "WORSHIP" on the second line, and "SCHEDULE" on the third line.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 9 - Palm Sunday services at 9:00 and 11:00

April 13 - Maundy Thursday service at 7:00

April 14 - Good Friday service at 7:00

April 16 - Easter services at 9:00 and 11:00

Florence M. Mallinson Memorial Scholarship Breakfast

Please join us on **Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017** at **10:00am** in the Family Life Center for a **delicious breakfast**. The Christian Education Committee will be hosting the breakfast along with the youth groups. There is no fee to attend, we just ask that you please sign up in the Narthex so that we know approximately how many people to expect. Donations to the Scholarship Fund would be greatly appreciated.



Good Friday Prayer Vigil

On **Good Friday, April 14th**

From **12:00 to 3:00**

Come for prayer and reflection.

Also, after being in prayer in the sanctuary, if you want to you can pray in color.

Evangelism/Outreach

Easter Sunday (April 16th) is

Catch a Friend Bring 'Em in Sunday.

Invite a friend to celebrate Easter with you!



ANTIQUUE APPRAISAL EVENT!

Please join us for this NEW EVENT at Brick Presbyterian Church!! On **May 20, 2017**, from 11:30-4:30 we will be hosting an Antique Appraisal Event in the FLC. Bring your treasures to be appraised by “**Legacies Old and New**”. There will be a limit of **2** items per person @ \$5.00 per item. An art expert will be available for advice and appraisal. Lunch will be available for purchase.

Prayer Team

Would you like to join the Prayer Team and help give comfort to members of our congregation who are on the weekly prayer list? This rewarding fellowship can be



accomplished at home by making phone calls, sending cards, personal devotionals, or even by speaking a few encouraging words of comfort in church. The prayer team meets once a month between services. Please consider helping the prayer team in this mission of supporting members of our congregation in their time of need.

Contact Carol Farley at 732-477-0018

Scholarship Applications

If you are graduating high school in June 2017 with plans to further your education in the fall of 2017, you are encouraged to apply for a **Florence M. Mallinson Scholarship**. Applications are available in the Sunday school office, the church office, or by emailing a request to Donnaschlatter@comcast.net.

.....*Deadline to apply is April 15, 2017.*



Attention Sunday School Families!

One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks

should be returned on Palm Sunday, April 9th.

Youth Group

The Youth Groups will be participating in the "**Stop Hunger**" program at the Visitation Church on **April 2nd** to make 10,000 food bags that will be distributed throughout the world. Immediately following that we will go back to the FLC for pizza and to make the palm crosses for Palm Sunday.

April 9th the Youth Groups will participate with the "Scholarship Breakfast" that will be held in between services helping to serve and clean up. Also on April 9th we will be going to Shorrock Gardens Nursing Home to distribute palm crosses. We will meet in the church parking lot at 1:10 or you can meet us at Shorrock Gardens at 1:30.

April 16th-Easter Sunday, we will be having a **BAKE SALE** to raise funds for our "Earn Your Wings Project"

Thank you everyone for your continued support for the Youth Groups!

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:1-2

One great hour of sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing Helps Us Answer God's Call

The Christian season of Lent is historically marked with fasting, a traditional practice of giving up food and devoting yourself to prayer. But this isn't the only type of fasting the Bible talks about. Isaiah 58 describes a new kind of fast, not to give up bread but to share it. Isaiah calls us to "loose the bonds of injustice," to "let the oppressed go free," to "share bread with the hungry"

and to "invite the homeless poor into our homes." We are called to offer help to those in need and restoration to those who have been broken down. Projects supported by OGHS are underway in more than 100 countries helping to improve the lives of people who lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

On April 9th, Palm Sunday, our OGHS special offering will be taken and will make a difference in the world through three impactful programs:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) as it works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters,

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) as it takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed, and

Self-Development of People (SDOP) as it invests in communities responding to the experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

You are invited to make a donation to OGHS using the offering envelopes which will be available in the pews on April 2nd and in the bulletin on April 9th. Please give generously.

presbyterianmission.org/oghs

Security Notice from PB&G:

When using the facility please ensure that all doors are locked and all lights are turned off as you leave the church. This will help to keep our utility bills low and ensure that our church is secure.



GREETINGS FROM THE DEACONS

Food Pantry

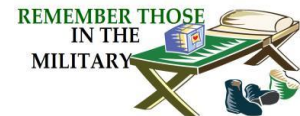


The Deacons are in the process of getting the **Food Pantry** stocked and ready for the **upcoming Easter season**, and we continue to need the help of the congregation. Any and all food donations are greatly appreciated. Our current food needs include:

- stuffing
- potatoes (boxed)
- cranberry sauce
- tuna fish
- canned chicken
- jello
- cereal
- coffee
- tea
- peanut butter
- jelly
- gravy
- canned fruit
- canned vegetables
- beans
- pasta
- spaghetti sauce
- rice

Active Military Donations

The Deacons support members of our Armed Forces by delivering donations from our congregation to American Recreational Military Services. Items are assembled into care packages that are distributed to our service men and women. **Please continue to bring in items.** A list of suggested items may be found on the church web site.



BLOOD DRIVE – MAY 10TH – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Deacons are pleased to announce that once again we will be hosting the Annual Blood Drive, **Wednesday, May 10th, 4-8 p.m.** Central Jersey Blood Center is a community-based, non-profit blood collection and distribution organization that has been serving NJ residents for almost 50 years. Their mission is to save lives by providing safe, high-quality blood products and services to patients in need. Please support this service by donating on May 10th. Sign-up/appointment sheets will be available at church in the weeks before the event, although walk-ins are welcome.

Date: Wednesday, May 10th Time: 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Place: BPC Family Life Center

*Thank you to our congregation for all your continued support of our church missions.
God bless you all!*



 **An Update on New Eyes for the Needy**

The Stewardship and Mission Committee has been collecting reusable old plastic or metal framed eyeglasses, nonprescription sunglasses, hearing aids, costume jewelry and old watches (even broken!) to help support New Eyes for the Needy, Inc. First organized in 1932, New Eyes for the Needy is a New Jersey based nonprofit volunteer organization that recycles the above items and uses them to provide the gift of sight to the poor all over the United States and throughout the world.

Thank you for supporting this worthy effort! We will continue to collect these items in 2017. Please drop them off in the collection box located in the Narthex.

For more information, contact Patrice Law at 732-779-7242 or via e-mail at patricealaw@gmail.com.

Chronic Disease Screening Program

Bridging Health Equity Across Communities provides Ocean County residents an opportunity to receive chronic disease screening services and education in a “one-stop shop” program.

Blood Pressure Screening
Stroke Risk Assessment
Glucose/Cholesterol Screening
Osteoporosis Screening (women only)
Rapid Hepatitis C Virus Testing
Nutrition and Exercise Education

Medication Management Information
Diabetes Education and Counseling



Tuesday, April 4, 2017
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Brick Presbyterian Church

For more information, contact:
Ocean County Health Department
732-341-9700 Ext. 7604