

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2, 2025



From Woody: . We live in a time of cruelty. Elon Musk, elected by no one, is shutting down the USAID agency, which is the largest provider of humanitarian, development and security assistance for more than 100 countries. America has always been a great source of help for people around the world facing dire situations. We have always worked at being the "City on a Hill" that Governor John Winthrop of the Massachusetts Bay Colony spoke of back in 1630, a speech that JFK quoted in his farewell address at the Statehouse

in Boston before leaving for his Inauguration in Washington. We seem to no longer want to be that. Yesterday when our national anthem was played at NHL and NBA games in Canada, people booed. Loyal government workers are being fired for no reason and the rhetoric from our leaders is angry and hateful. It is a sad state of affairs. It was President Dwight Eisenhower who, after hearing a sermon in a Presbyterian Church suggesting that "under God" be added into the Pledge of Allegiance, got that done. I think we are not living up to that pledge at the current time. Our treatment and statements towards immigrants fly in the face of Jesus' teaching. I wish our President would visit the Statue of Liberty and read there the words of Emma Lazarus from her poem "The New Colossus":

*Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.*

Let us renew our commitment to making our land "A City on a Hill" rather than a place of anger, hatred, and cruelty. I believe that we then could truthfully include "one nation under God" in our Pledge of Allegiance.



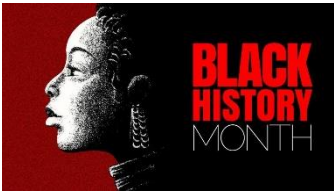
Valentine Serenades: Members of the choir are again offering Valentine Serenades for your valentines. The offering includes 1-2 songs by members of the choir, a box of handmade artisan chocolates by the Trzepacz family, a flower, and a card. This will be offered **February 8-14, 5-8 pm**. Cost is \$35. Need an extra flower or box of chocolates? No problem. Extra flower \$3 each. Extra box of chocolates \$12 each. Order your serenade between January **16** and **February 6** to

save your spot. Reservations can be made by calling or emailing Barbara Woodland 603-487-3643 or barbarawoodland@comcast.net. What a wonderful way to celebrate the loves in your life.

Need a long-distance serenade? No problem, we can face time or call your valentine. Due to the long distance flower and chocolates are not included. Cost is \$20 each.



California Wildfires: We are responding to the wild fires in California with our gifts of help. If you wish to contribute, you can write a check to the church with wildfire help on the memo line or gifts can be made online at pcusa.org/CAfires25, by phone at 800-728-7228, ext. 5885, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with “PDA-CF25-BI” written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



February is Black History month, and we are proud to share the sponsorship with the Daughters of the American Revolution of a program on Negro Spirituals presented by our own Carolyn Ferguson Wilson. It will be on **Saturday, February 15 at 1pm** in the Dignard Room. There is no charge but if you can help by bringing baked goods to share that would be much appreciated—be sure to include ingredients. There may be surprises!



Flowers for Sanctuary: A new sign-up sheet for flowers for our worship service, is posted on the bulletin board by the office. If you want to give them in memory of someone or some event, just let Ellen know. Thanks in advance for your contribution. Ellen Anderson cell 973-747-2321; email andersel@njms.rutges.edu



QR Code: You can use the QR code below to pay your pledge or other contribution.



QR Code: Or click on this link: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/e47ab025-f0b0-40b4-90e6-f262bb1a29e1>



Peace Quote: Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.....*Martin Luther King*