

WEEK OF JANUARY 26, 2025



From Woody: .My space this week will be given to the response of the national church to the terrible fires in California and to our opportunity to be of help:

The beginning of this year has brought unprecedented challenges for our neighbors in California, who are now facing a devastating disaster. The harrowing images of wildfires consuming parts of Los /Angeles and Ventura counties have deeply impacted us all, stirring our hearts with sorrow and compassion. Authorities are reporting this as a historic deadly wildfire event. More than 40,000 acres have burned with over 12,300 structures destroyed, entire communities wiped out, and tens of thousands of residents displaced. Currently, 92,000 residents are under evacuation orders, and 89,000 more remain in evacuation warning zones, meaning they may need to leave their homes at a notice. Tragically, at least 24 lives have been lost, and the numbers continue to rise as fires remain uncontained. This is an ongoing disaster, and the extent of damage and loss continues to evolve, with figures expected to change as the situation develops

As part of the ongoing response and in consultation with the Presbyteries of the Pacific, San Fernando and San Gabriel, as well as the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii and its leadership, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been in communication with faith leaders in affected communities. In addition to providing emotional and spiritual care, PDA has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent needs of the communities and to provide immediate assistance. Though the final outcomes of these fires are yet to be known, we are clear that the magnitude of the event will require the development of long-term projects and assistance, both for the physical and emotional long-lasting effects. Presbyterians in the region are participating in coordination calls with nonprofit and faith-based disaster organizations to ensure that no one is forgotten.

Financial support for relief efforts can be designated to DR000165, which supports the church's response to wildfires in the U.S. Gifts can be made [online at](#), by phone at 800-7287228, ext. 5885, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A), PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700; or at the church this coming Sunday.



Artisan Chocolates: Made by Heather and Rob Trzepacz are on sale. Box of 6 is \$12. Choices are dark chocolate with a salted caramel filling or milk chocolate with a chocolate ganache filling. Place your order with Rob and Heather at rhtrapz@gmail.com. before January 31, and pay when you pick them up February 9th.

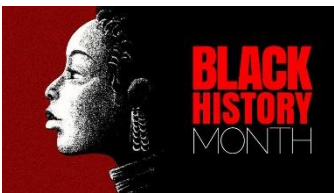


Valentine Serenades: Members of the choir are again offering Valentine Serenades for your valentines. The offering includes 1-2 songs by members of the choir, a box of handmade artisan chocolates by the Trzepacz family, a flower, and a card. This will be offered **February 8-14, 5-8 pm.** Cost is \$35. 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.



Annual Meeting: Thank you to all who attended the Annual Meeting this past Sunday.



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** 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.



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: I have decided to stick to love.....hate is too great a burden to bear.....*Dr. Martin Luther King*