

Week of October 8, 2023



From Woody: The sad news from the Middle East over the weekend reminds us of the need to put Jesus' Golden Rule into action, not only in our personal lives but also in the bigger world. Our world faces big issues like climate change, hunger, racism, hatred and intolerance among others. In the Middle East we understandably tried to restore a homeland for the Jewish people after the horror of the Holocaust. Unfortunately we took land with no agreement from those already living there, namely the Palestinians. It is a sad commentary that the current Israeli leadership seems unwillingly to allow the formation of an independent Palestinian state. Like all of the wars through history, it seems possible for rational and well-meaning people to sit down and work out these kinds of problems without killing innocent people who just want to live their lives in peace. Perhaps governments should have ministers or secretaries of peace instead of war (renamed defense in our country). We need leaders who can work together to make a peaceful world for everyone.

The Jewish and Christian faiths have the beautiful vision of Isaiah 2 as well as the teachings of Jesus, which were all based on the Golden Rule. The word Islam means way of peace. Let us elect leaders in all countries who are peacemakers. Sounds rather idealistic, I know, but as Christians we are called to follow the Prince of Peace, not the God of war. Let us pray for peace, not just in the Holy Land but throughout the world. It seems clear that is what God wants and what makes a lot more sense than using our national budgets for war while we need them to fight hunger, poverty, racism and climate change.

Thanks to Bill Vickery and Lynn Wawrzyniak and all who helped at the chicken dinner last Saturday! It is a great fundraiser, and also a great community event.



Welcome New Members: We will be welcoming two new members on Nov. 12. If you would like to join as well, please let Woody know.



Halloween Trick or Treat: Please check your calendars to see if you can help on Halloween Night as we entertain hundreds of trick or treaters coming through the church. If you can help, contact Woody at 487-3643



**We are looking for volunteers in several areas. There are sign up sheets on the church bulletin board.
Or you can let Barbara Woodland know (603-487-3643):**



Greeters: We are looking for greeters for Sunday worship. The job includes lighting the candles, getting water for Woody on the pulpit, and most importantly welcoming people as they come in the front door. We have had a number of new people recently and we want them to feel welcome.



Sanctuary Flowers: Volunteers are needed to provide flowers for the altar on Sunday. There is a signup list outside the office door at church, or you can email Ellen at andersel@njms.rutgers.edu It is a wonderful way to contribute to the service; one can give in memory of someone or some event as well.



Refreshments for Coffee Hour: We are looking for people to provide refreshments after church for the coffee hour. They can be homemade or bought and do not need to be elaborate. Again, this is a way to make people feel welcome.



Peace Quote: Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God...Jesus, The Beatitudes.