

12th Street Review

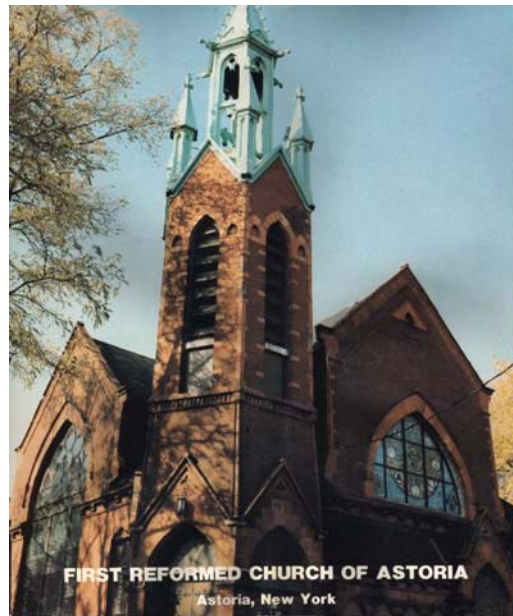
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The First Reformed Church of Astoria

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*The First Reformed Church of Astoria Loves You,
Come And See How Much!!!”*

Rev. Dwayne L. Jackson, Pastor

Pastors Corner

In the book of Isaiah 43:18-19, God sends the following message to the people of Israel, *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”*

As we enter into as New Year this message is revived for us to hear and to live once again. God is has given each of us a personal invitation to let go of the things that have slowed your life down and to accept His offer to give you a clean start. Will you accept this offer?

A New Year for some means the making of New Year’s resolutions which most of us will struggle to keep past this month. But I challenge you to use this time to renew your walk with Christ. Give Him the things you no longer want to carry around, then allow yourself to see all of the possibilities a New Year in the Lord can bring.

May you have a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed New Year in the Lord.

Peace & Blessings
Rev. Dwayne L. Jackson, *Pastor*

Scripture Passage for the Month

Isaiah 43: 1-19 (NIV)

But now, this is what the Lord says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. 3 For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush[a] and Seba in your stead. 4 Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life. 5 Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. 6 I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’ Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth— 7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” 8 Lead out those who have eyes but are blind, who have ears but are deaf. 9 All the nations gather together and the peoples assemble. Which of their gods foretold this and proclaimed to us the former things? Let them bring in their witnesses to prove they were right, so that others may hear and say, “It is true.” 10 “You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. 11 I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from me there is no savior. 12 I have revealed and saved and proclaimed— I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “that I am God. 13 Yes, and from ancient days I am he. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?” 14 This is what the Lord says— your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “For your sake I will send to Babylon and bring down as fugitives all the Babylonians,[b] in the ships in which they took pride. 15 I am the Lord, your Holy One, Israel’s Creator, your King.” 16 This is what the Lord says— he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, 17 who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick: 18 “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Winter Cryptogram

Decode the words by finding each substitute letter!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Q			W									P							Z	Y					O

B Z Z
Q H S O O R B M

B T S
Q D D Y Z

 T
E D R Y

E D H M

E E M B E
M W E W P Q W B

 E E
V S B W L H R E W

 E E Z E
V B W W O W

 T
U R Y

 E S
S E S E H W Z

M T T E S
P S Y Y W A Z



THE LAUGHING CORNER

The Offering

The Baptist preacher just finished his sermon for the day and proceeded toward the back of the church for his usual greetings and handshaking as the congregation left the church. After shaking a few adult hands he came upon the seven year old son of one of the Deacons of the church.

"Good morning, Jonathan," the preacher said as he reached out to shake Jonathan's hand.

As he was doing so he felt something in the palm of Jonathan's hand. "What's this?" the preacher asked.

"Money," said Jonathan with a big smile on his face, "It's for you!"

"I don't want to take your money, Jonathan," the preacher answered.

"I want you to have it," said Jonathan. After a short pause Jonathan continued, "My daddy says you're the poorest preacher we ever had and I want to help you."

Words of Inspiration
“1937 New Years Poem”
May Sarton

The earth feels old tonight
And we who live and stand on the cold rim
Face a new year.

It is raining everywhere
As if the rain were mercy,
As if the rain were peace,
Peace falling on our hair.

Open your hearts tonight, let them burn!
Let them light a way in the dark.
Let them one by one affirm there is hope for a
staff:

I say it will flower in our hands,
We shall go garlanded.
There is the fine fresh stuff of faith for a coat:
We shall go warm.

We shall go on by the light of our hearts.
We shall burn mightily in the new year.
We shall go on together.

O you who stand alone on the rim of the
earth and are cold,
I salute you here!

Rules from God

- 1. Wake Up !!** Decide to have a good day.
"Today is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."
Psalms 118:24
- 2. Dress Up !!** The best way to dress up is to put on a smile.
A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.
"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance; but the Lord looks at the heart."
I Samuel 16:7
- 3. Shut Up!!** Say nice things and learn to listen.
God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking.
"He who guards his lips guards his soul."
Proverbs 13:3
- 4. Stand Up!!...** For what you believe in.
Stand for something or you will fall for anything.
"Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good..."
Galatians 6:9-10
- 5. Look Up !!...** To the Lord.
"I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13
- 6. Reach Up !!...** For something higher.
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path."
Proverbs 3:5-6
- 7. Lift Up !!...** Your Prayers.
"Do not worry about anything; instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING."
Philippians 4:6

BEYOND OUR DOORS

SUBWAY AND BUS

Use only entrances marked by a green indicator, where there is a clerk present 24 hours a day. Have your money or metro card available. Use designated waiting areas during off-peak hours. Ride in the conductor's car during off-peak hours. Sit in the center of the car, away from the door, to avoid a purse or chain snatch. Cover jewelry; turn stone rings toward the palm side of your hand. Stay awake and aware and exit with the crowd. Wait and walk close to the wall. Wait for the bus on the sidewalk away from the curb. Sit near the front of the bus. Be aware of your wallet/purse to avoid a pickpocket.

ELEVATOR

When waiting for an elevator, leave the lobby/hallway if someone makes you feel uncomfortable. Check the elevator's mirror before entering. Stand between the control panel and door when in the elevator. Exit the elevator if someone enters that makes you feel uneasy. If you feel the need to give an excuse, you can say, "Oh, I forgot my mail." If accosted, press as many buttons as possible to try and get the elevator to stop at the next floor.

WALKING - BE STREET SMART

Use well-populated and well-lit streets. If you suspect you're being followed, stay away from deserted blocks and head for an area where there are people or to the nearest open store. If you're driven home, ask the driver to wait until you are safely inside. Should a motorist bother you while you are walking, reverse your direction. If you are still followed, seek a safe location and yell for help, if possible.

Something To Do

WINTER CROSSWORD

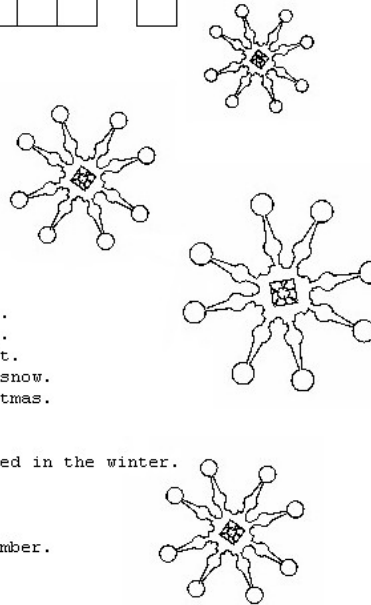


Across

1. Time off from school or work.
5. Used to decorate a Christmas tree.
7. It's a season for giving _____.
10. Holiday celebrated on January 1st.
12. Strap them on and go downhill on snow.
13. I'm dreaming of a _____ Christmas.

Down

2. Winter sport on frozen water.
3. African-American holiday celebrated in the winter.
4. Famous Snowman
6. Flakes that fall from the sky.
8. The month following January.
9. Jewish holiday celebrated in December.
11. Santa's Helpers



Recipe of the Month

ROASTED VEGETABLES

1 small butternut squash, cubed
2 red bell peppers, diced and seeded
1 sweet potato, peeled and cubed
2 yukon gold potatoes, cubed
1 red onion, quartered
1 tablespoon fresh thyme, chopped
2 tablespoons fresh rosemary, chopped
¼ cup olive oil
2 tablespoons of balsamic vinegar
Salt and pepper

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 40 minutes

Serves: 12

Directions

- 1.** Preheat oven to 475 degrees F (245 degrees C).
- 2.** In a large bowl, combine the squash, red bell peppers, sweet potato, and Yukon Gold potatoes. Separate the red onion quarters into pieces, and add them to the mixture.
- 3.** In a small bowl, stir together thyme, rosemary, olive oil, vinegar, salt, and pepper. Toss with vegetables until they are coated. Spread evenly on a large roasting pan.
- 4.** Roast for 35 to 40 minutes in the preheated oven, stirring every 10 minutes, or until vegetables are cooked through and browned.

JUST FOR FUN

2009

Christmas Secret Shape

Find all the listed words in this grid - they can run in any direction, even backwards or diagonally, but always in a straight line. Then colour in the left-over letter squares to discover a hidden shape!

T	B	P	F	E	S	R	A	T	S	C	T	O	G	
N	A	E	C	I	F	C	A	R	D	A	S	U	N	M
E	P	S	L	E	D	M	A	N	H	C	R	I	B	M
S	D	V	E	L	U	Y	X	T	T	T	S	I	L	A
E	E	B	W	I	S	H	A	U	R	A	E	P	V	R
R	E	F	W	S	M	D	L	W	V	A	N	S	E	I
P	C	R	I	A	F	J	P	Y	D	N	I	G	H	T
D	O	A	T	R	W	G	A	A	B	P	N	E	V	E
E	W	T	N	O	T	R	P	D	R	A	K	F	W	W
C	E	E	I	D	O	I	E	I	M	W	U	T	O	A
E	L	T	X	B	Y	N	R	L	U	N	O	B	L	E
M	G	S	E	M	S	C	H	O	R	S	E	V	L	E
B	N	O	K	R	A	H	A	H	D	O	V	E	S	E
E	I	P	E	E	H	S	T	N	E	M	A	N	R	O
R	J	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	E	R	C	Y

AWE
BAUBLE
BELLS
BETHLEHEM
CANDY CANE
CARD
CRIB
DECEMBER
DOVES
DRUM
ELVES
EVE
FAIR
FIR
FUN
GRINCH
HARK
HOLIDAY
ICE
JINGLE
LIST
MANGER
MERCY
NIGHT

NOBLE
ORNAMENTS
PAPER HAT
PEAR
POST
PRESENT
RITE
ROBE
SANTA
SHEEP
SILVER
SING
SLED
STARS
SUN
TOP
TOYS
TRAYS
TREE
WISH
WRAP
XMAS
YULE

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Schedules & Calendar of Events

Communion	Every First Sunday
Youth Sunday School	Sunday at 9:30 AM
Young Adult Bible Study	Monday 6:00 PM
Chronological Bible Journey	Tuesday 2:30 PM
Live & Spiritual Coaching	Tuesday 5:30 PM
Adult Bible Study/Prayer Session	Tuesday 7:00 PM
Adult Inspirational Reading	Sunday 9:30 AM
Consistory Meeting	First Saturday 9:30 AM
Choir Rehearsal	Thursday 7:00 PM
Men's Group	Second Sunday
Women's Group	Second Sunday
Usher Board	Third Sunday
Family Game Night	2 nd & 4 th Friday 7:00 PM



- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Sunday January 18, 2015
- Congregational Meeting January, 25 2015
- Ash Wednesday February 18, 2015

If you would like to submit an entry for an up and coming news letter please contact Deacon Cheryl Miller.

***If you need to contact the Rev. Jackson for any reason,
I can be reached at: (718) 721-4047***