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Second Presbyterian Church: July and August 2019

WELCOME!

**Nancy Hughes is Worship Coordinator for July 14 – August 25
(Elaine Song will do the honors for July 7)**

Summertime Worship will be in the sanctuary, and summertime Fellowship Hour will feature cookies, cold drinks and warm friendship!

The Week of July 1: Office Administrator Virginia Danner will be on vacation, and Rev. Lindsay Borden will be away July 3 – 5.

Sunday, July 7, 10:15 am: During this worship service so close to the July Fourth holiday, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion and sing the lovely patriotic hymn, "O Beautiful, For Spacious Skies," with its timely prayer that God will mend our nation's every flaw. Scripture: Galatians 6: 1-16, Luke 10: 1-20. Sermon: "Road Trip."

Sunday, July 14, 10:15 am : Come and let your voice be heard today! We will kick off our Mission Study Survey project by filling out the survey as part of our worship. What does that mean? No sermon! Though rest assured there will be prayers, hymns and readings (Deuteronomy 30: 9-14, Luke 10: 25-37). But if you can't be there, do not fear! You will have other opportunities to fill out the survey, and we hope as many members and friends of SPC as possible will participate in this important information-gathering effort!

Tuesday, July 16, 6 pm: Trustees meet.

Wednesday, July 17: At **12 noon**, our monthly midweek prayer group meets at Vivian Tom's house for prayer, fellowship and lunch (usually at a local diner). All are welcome! Please let Vivian or Karen Amrhein know if you will attend.

At **5 pm**, Worship & Music Committee meets.

Starting July 18: Virginia will be on vacation through August 19.

Thursday, July 18, 6:15 pm: Session meets.

Sunday, July 21, 10:15 am: Come and worship, as we hear readings from Amos 8: 1-12 and Luke 10: 38-42, and a sermon on "Martha's Time."

Week of July 22: Rev. Lindsay will be on vacation.

Sunday, July 28, 10:15 am: Come and worship, as Elder Cecilia Blewer preaches! Details TBA.

Sunday, August 4, 10:15 am: Join us for worship as we share the Sacrament of Communion. Scripture: Hosea 11: 1-11, Luke 12: 13-21. Sermon: "Don't Go Breaking My Heart."

Wednesday, August 7, 6:30 – 8 pm: Join us for the next stage in our Mission Study work, a conversation with the Rev. Phil Tom about how we can explore and learn more about our neighborhood.

Sunday, August 11, 10:15 am: In worship today, Rev. L. begins a 3-part sermon series about Sabbath. Scripture: Deuteronomy 5: 12-15, Matthew 11: 28-30. Sermon: "Sabbath 1: Radical Rest."

Sunday, August 18, 10:15 am: Come and worship! Scripture: Genesis 2: 1-3, John 15: 9-15. Sermon: "Sabbath 2: Creative Rest."

Sunday, August 25, 10:15 am: Join us on this last day of summertime worship! Scripture: Deuteronomy 15: 1-2, 7-11, Matthew 20: 1-16. Sermon: "Sabbath 3: Communal Rest."

After worship, stay for fellowship and fun at an Ice Cream Social. We'll serve ice cream (including a non-dairy sorbet), various toppings – and root beer floats!

Labor Day Weekend: The church will be closed Sunday, September 1 and Monday, September 2. Offer thanks for the holiday, rest from your labors, and join us

for worship with the Sacrament of Communion on Sunday, September 8.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 ARS GRADUATES

We thank God for these wonderful young people, including our very own Heidi. May God bless them as they move on to the next stage of their lives!

Click on this link for photos: <https://ars.smugmug.com/2019-Graduation/>

CATCHING THE SPIRIT

Adult and Children's Choirs make a joyful noise together, under the direction of Eunjung Ahn - and the Holy Spirit! (Can you spot the dove hovering overhead?)

On June 9, the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit blew through Second Presbyterian Church, bringing energy and delight! The children of the church, guided by their intrepid Sunday School teacher Joel Ahn, led the entire service with enthusiasm, the choir rocked the house, and regulars and visitors (some present by invitation, some blown in by the Spirit) joined in with gusto. Afterwards, birthdays were celebrated and stories shared. All in all, it was wonderful day.

Next year, Pentecost falls on May 31, 2020. Save the date – for who knows where the Spirit will lead!

Like the first disciples at Pentecost, these folks aren't drunk – just filled with the Spirit!

MISSION STUDY - YOU'RE INVITED!

The next stage of our mission review is upon us! Beginning this month and continuing into the fall, we will engage in surveys, meetings and collaborations to help evaluate the direction of the church – a required step before we elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.

The idea is that to discern where God might want us to go, we want to define who we are now. The mission study team, with the support of the Session, has identified three areas to help us get there.

The first step will be a survey to be completed by members, friends and visitors about

experiences in worship and the life of the church. We will begin the process **during worship on July 14** when, instead of hearing a sermon, we will fill out surveys. All other elements of the worship service will remain. Those unable to attend worship on July 14 can fill out the survey online or on paper. All answers are anonymous, but you do need to report that you have taken the survey.

Second, we will explore and reflect on the neighborhood around the church, with the help of someone who specializes in examining church-neighborhood relationships – the Rev. Phil Tom, a member of New York City Presbytery. A meeting with Rev. Tom, to talk about how we might explore our neighborhood and its needs, will take place on **Wednesday, August 7** at 6:30 – 8 pm (room TBA). Everyone is invited to attend and get involved. Those who have lived in the neighborhood might be helpful in providing insights on the changes in the neighborhood over the years as well as the relationship over time between the church and the community.

After the surveys are compiled, we will share the results with the congregation and hold a series of conversations to help us define our common values and how to move forward into the future. We hope this stage can begin in September.

The last stage of the process involves writing a report defining our mission and the results of our study. The Mission Study Report is then submitted to the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry. Once it is approved, we can move to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.

If you would like to serve at any or all of these stages, please contact Rev. Lindsay. You can choose one discrete area to help with or help lead the entire effort. All contributions are welcome and appreciated.

The members of the Mission Study Team are: Karen Amrhein, Nancy Hughes, Lisa Infield-Harm and Elaine Song.



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SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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