

Second Presbyterian Church: December 2019

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! And as the sanctuary is adorned, our staff works hard to keep everything shipshape - so make sure you thank Pete, Leroy, and Mauro.

Take a bow, Eunjung! The November Organ Restoration Celebration Concert was a huge success (and Roger did a wonderful job setting up the projection). Thank you!!

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Bruce Ewing is Worship Coordinator.

The Deacons will have sign-up sheets during Fellowship Hour for setup, serving, and cleanup.

Sunday, December 1, 10:15 am: This **First Sunday of Sunday**, we'll light the first candle in the Advent wreath, and celebrate the sacrament of communion.

Wednesday, December 4, 12 noon: Our monthly midweek **prayer group** meets at Vivian's house for prayer, followed by fellowship and lunch. **All are welcome!** Just let Vivian or Karen know if you will attend.

7 pm: Choir meets every Wednesday through December 18.

Thursday, December 5, 4 pm: Nominating Committee meeting.

Saturday December 7, 10 am, at the Lott Assisted Living Residence, 1261 5th Avenue (at 108 St.): Caroling! Join members of the church and school communities to sing holiday songs with Lott residents. For info or to sign up, contact

Karen Amrhein or Elaine Song.

Sunday, December 8, 10:15 am: The **Second Sunday of Advent is also Music Sunday!**

Tuesday, December 10, 6 pm: Trustees meeting.

Wednesday, December 11, 5:45 pm: Worship & Music Committee meeting.

Thursday, December 12, 6:15 pm: Session meeting.

Friday, December 13, 6 pm, at Rutgers Presbyterian Church, 236 West 73 St (at B'way): Seventh Annual Vigil of Remembrance. Join the NYC chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and the gun violence prevention community to shine a light on the countless lives lost and touched by gun violence.

Sunday, December 15, 10:15 am: This is the **Third Sunday of Advent and Christmas Pageant Day!** Stay afterwards for a **potluck lunch complete with Birthday Cake** for those who celebrate July through December birthdays.

Thursday, December 19, 6 pm: The **Alexander Robertson School Holiday Program**. All are welcome!

Sunday, December 22, 10:15 am: This is the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**.

Tuesday, December 24, 6 pm: Join us for an early evening family-friendly **Candlelight Christmas Eve** service, with soloist Kyunghee Kim. Immediately following worship, we'll share hot cider and sweet treats, throw open the doors and sing Christmas carols to neighbors and passersby! Please bring cookies to share (and dress warmly!).

Sunday, December 29, 10:15 am: On this **First Sunday of Christmas**, Elder Elaine Song will lead worship, and Judith Thatcher will be our guest musician.

Please note: ARS is closed December 20 – January 3. SPC offices are closed December 25 – January 3.

Say Hello to Iza!

If you haven't had a chance yet, stop by sometime and say hello to our new finance person, Izaora "Iza" Bulica. Iza works for both church and school, and is in her office most mornings, till 12:30 or so.

And as James Tse and Luther Wilson take their leave, we are planning a way to thank and honor them for their work among us, early in the new year.

A message from our Executive Presbyter

November 24, 2019

Dear Rev. Borden and Second Presbyterian Church,

In this season of thanks, I give thanks to God for your congregation's participation in the Vital Congregations Initiative. I pray that you may be blessed by coming together to listen to what the Spirit of God is leading you into and that it builds encouragement in doing so as a congregation and with a cohort of other congregations also committed. "God is about a do new thing, now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isa. 43.19)

The grace and peace of Jesus Christ be with you,
The Rev. Dr. Robert Foltz-Morrison
Executive Presbyter
Presbytery of New York City



Please keep in your prayers...

Rev. Leslie on the death of her mother Geraldine, and all those who mourn; Eunjung's mother-in-law Jaechun; Johanna W; Constance; Patti; Rev. Ted; Jane and Dennis and new baby Travis; Virginia and her sisters Joanne and June; Alison; Lew; Lolita; Vivian; Fiona; Fern; Ruddy; Justin; Karen's father; those affected by natural disasters; immigrants and refugees at risk; victims and perpetrators of assault, abuse and other acts of physical and emotional violence; incarcerated persons; and all those who work for the common good. *Please call or email Rev. Borden or any one of our Deacons with any name you would like to be on our prayer list.*

A note from Rev. Lindsay

***Love has come, a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises.
Love! Love! Born unto you a Savior.
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.***

Heading over the river and through the woods to see my family for Thanksgiving (or, at least, up I-95 to the Mass Pike), we drove by this billboard proclaiming "Real Christians Love their enemies" against the grey November sky. Now, while I'd have preferred it if they'd simply said "Christians love their enemies" without that qualifying "real," which makes it sound a bit gloat-y, and though I did NOT call the phone number listed - I did appreciate the reminder of the Good News. For amidst all the partisan political name-calling, all the nasty tweets and angry posts, all the news stories about how to survive Thanksgiving dinner with family members on other side of the political divide - even "real" Christians benefit from the reminder: we are called to love. In all times, in all circumstances, all people, all creation.

Dang, that can be hard! If you're anything like me, you fail at that. A lot. But still we keep trying. Because Love has come and no matter how much we mess up, Love will reign. So take heart, and trust that, no matter what *we* accomplish, "By the tender

mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Love has come, and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high.
(Hymn 110, Glory to God hymnal)

Arise! Shine! Your light has come!
Grace and peace ~
Rev. Lindsay



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SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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