

View this email in your browser

Second Presbyterian Church: February 2020

Fr. Benedict Taylor (3rd from left), speaker, surrounded by fellow friars

Winter greetings!

In January, there were two wonderful local worship services on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, at Holy Name of Jesus church (*above*), and at the Presbytery's service honoring Dr. King and Mrs.

Rosa Parks, at Broadway Presbyterian (*below*).

Let's continue to honor and carry forward the spirits of Dr. King and Mrs. Parks as Black History Month begins, and as we work for a world where it will be understood that every month is Black History Month - and Women's History Month - et cetera. Because the history of our country and the world is a history in which ALL people have played their unique and profound parts.

Soloist Adrienne Danrich and preacher Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle

Watch the service

at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQhVvI6aI1s&feature=youtu.be>

Second Presbyterian Church: February 2020

Nancy Hughes is Worship Coordinator.

Sign up during Fellowship Hour for setup, serving, and cleanup.

Sunday, February 2, 10:15 am: On this first Sunday of the month, we'll celebrate the Sacrament of Communion. In Fellowship Hour, we'll show a brief video about ordained leadership.

Wednesday, February 5: Worship & Music Committee meets at 5:30 pm; Choir rehearses at 7, and every Wednesday.

Sunday, February 9, 10:15 am: Today in worship we ordain and install our new class of church officers. Afterwards, we'll celebrate the Lunar New Year with a delicious feast! Confirmation classes also start today.

Sunday, February 16, 10:15 am: On this holiday weekend, we will offer a contemplative Taizé service, with Scripture, prayers, silence and song. (Rev. Lindsay is off.)

Monday and Tuesday, February 17 & 18: The offices will be closed for President's Day.

Thursday, February 20, 6:15 pm: Session meeting, Carnegie Library.

Sunday, February 23: Join us for worship at 10:15 am as we celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord, and learn about volunteering at Broadway Community as Deacon Karen Amrhein Shines a Light on one of the 7 Marks: Outward Incarnational Focus. After, our soprano soloist Katie Kim and her husband Sy will kindly host Fellowship Hour. Deacons will meet today after worship.

Wednesday, February 26: Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday will be a very busy day at Second Pres, as the season of Lent begins.

8 – 9 am: Ashes for All: We'll be out in front of the church during peak commuting time today offering ashes and blessings to passers-by. *Let Rev. L know if you'd like to be a part of this, as we model Intentional Authentic Evangelism.*

12 noon: Our monthly midweek prayer group meets at Vivian's house for prayer, followed by fellowship and lunch. All are welcome!

5 – 6 pm: Ashes for All!

6:30 pm: Remember! Service for Ash Wednesday. Join us for an informal worship service featuring readings from Scripture, prayer, imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Pill Bottle Donations

Thanks to Elder Ken Threet, we've learned that Matthew 25: Ministries accepts donations of empty plastic pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies and for shredding and recycling. Their pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment.

You are welcome to send in empty bottles yourselves – but we will also collect them at the church, and send them on when we have a more substantial amount. Look for the container in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

In any case, here are the details. Please follow the instructions so that our donations can be as useful as possible!

Acceptable collection items include:

- Prescription and over-the-counter pill bottles
- Large and small pill bottles
- Pill bottles with and without secure caps (child-resistant)

Pill bottles that are not appropriate to include with shipments of medical supplies will be recycled and may generate revenue that supports Matthew 25: Ministries' programs. If you wish to prepare bottles for shipment rather than recycling, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Bottles included in shipments of medical supplies must have an all plastic lid.
- Sort bottles by color and type.
- Remove labels, leaving no glue or residue.
- Wash bottles in very hot water and dish soap.
- Rinse and dry thoroughly.
- Replace lids on clean, dried bottles.
- Place clean, recapped bottles in large zip-lock bags marked "Clean Bottles." These will be blended with medical supplies.

Please send pill bottles to:

Matthew 25: Ministries
11060 Kenwood Road
Cincinnati, OH 45242

<http://m25m.org/pillbottles/>

Looking Ahead

The first day of March is also the first Sunday in Lent, and there will be many opportunities in March to engage in the traditional Lenten spiritual practices of prayer/contemplation, charity and fasting.

Prayer:

As part of our Lenten disciplines AND Vital Congregations Initiative, we'll be doing a Bible study focusing on the 7 Marks of Vital Congregations. Most of the gathering will be after worship on Sundays, with a possible alternative class on Wednesdays before Choir rehearsal. Dates TBA!

Charity:

On Saturday, March 21, we can give of our time, together, at Broadway Community, the central mission program of our neighbors the Broadway Presbyterian Church (Broadway and 114 St.). Among other programs, they have a clothing distribution program, and need volunteers to sort and distribute clothing. So save the date and stay tuned for details!

Fasting:

This may be harder. What might we fast from for Lent, as a church? Sweets at Fellowship Hour, or something more challenging? Being late? Complaining? Gossiping? Or, perhaps we can all give up buying things that aren't 100% necessary, or fast from watching TV - at least on Saturdays, say. Let Rev. Lindsay know if you have any ideas to share!

Please keep in your prayers...

Please keep in your prayers: all those who mourn; Matt Mauser and his three children (family of Susanna Nason); Pete and his family; Cecilia; Eunjung's mother-in-law Jaechun; Johanna W; Constance; Patti; Rev. Ted; Virginia and her sisters Joanne and June; Alison; Lew; Lolita; Vivian; Fiona; Fern; Ruddy; Karen's father; those affected in the Middle East; 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

I don't wear much jewelry, but I always wear a little ring that has, engraved into the silver, a simple heart with a cross in the middle. It might strike some people as odd – this heart and cross combo. It's not exactly a Valentine's card image, not lacy or flowery or a bit sentimental.

Yet the cross of Christ is perhaps where God meets us most intimately: in the most human and abandoned and horrific places of our lives, as one of us, one with our pain and grief and even in our deaths – and then, raises us to new life. That's why Protestants have empty crosses in our churches – for it is the raising, not the dying, that is the climax of the story.

We recently heard the Apostle Paul say, "the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." And I love that the word for "save" in Greek has many shades of meaning, including deliverance from physical danger, saving in a spiritual sense, and healing. We and our world surely need that healing now.

As I look toward Lent, which begins on February 26, I've been contemplating this image of the cross and the heart. This reminder that God is with us, in the depths of our griefs as well as the heights of our joys.

But before we get to Lent, February 14 is St. Valentine's Day. Of course, on every day, God's love is shared with us, so every day is a good day to share God's love with others! Happy Heart Days!

grace and peace ~
Rev. Lindsay