

Second Presbyterian Church: April 2020

A note from Rev. Lindsay

Dear Ones,

You are daily in my prayers.

This pandemic had proved a stark reminder of things we already knew, but sometimes try so hard to forget. We are mortal, and death is certain. We live in a world of racial and socio-economic injustice where, for many, greed is god. People are capable of remarkable cruelty and stupidity.

And yet – each life is a precious gift. We live in a world of generosity and hope. People are capable of remarkable courage, and remarkable love. God alone is God, and God is good.

And because life is uncertain, perhaps that makes it all the sweeter – so let's live in gratitude and grace; a life described in the traditional charge to the people, drawn from the words of the epistle writers. It's a reminder of our calling in these hard days – and our calling when things get better.

*Go out into the world in peace;
have courage;
hold on to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, and help the suffering;
honor all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

Second Presbyterian Church: Spring 2020

Dear Friends: The church and building remain closed till further notice. And due to our desire to be flexible and adaptable in these uncertain days, please note that almost anything on the calendar is subject to change. But I'll do my best to keep you informed!

Thanks for your understanding. ~ Rev. L

And a Word about VIRTUAL WORSHIP

In time for Sunday morning, we'll continue to post our virtual worship "podcast" on the website so that you can listen on Sunday morning at 10:15 am (or Saturday night, or Sunday night, or whenever!) – and then join us for a Zoom Prayer and Fellowship virtual gathering at 10:45.

To access the Virtual Worship service:

<https://secondpresbyteriannyc.org/>

click on Virtual Worship link. We'll post Sunday's recordings by Saturday afternoon.

To join the 10:45 Sunday morning Zoom meetings:

I will send out info on how to join by Saturday morning, each week.

I you don't receive it, email or call me!

DAILY PRAYER at 7:03 pm: Another way we can be together "virtually" - and one that doesn't require the use of technology - is to join together in prayer at the same time each day. At 7 pm every day, I've been standing at my open window and joining in the applause for our first responders, nurses, doctors and other health care workers who are helping to fight the city's coronavirus outbreak. I don't even have to set an alarm to remember, because I can hear my neighbors cheering. Right after that - at about 7:03 each evening - I will be praying for the world. Please join me.

Second Presbyterian Church: Easter 2020 Holy Week and The Season of Easter

Our palms have arrived!

They will adorn the outside of the church on Palm Sunday.

7:00 pm everyday: Let's applaud and show support for our front-line workers - and then join our hearts in prayer, wherever we are.

Friday, April 3, 4 pm: Confirmation Class via Zoom.

Sunday, April 5: Anytime: Palm-Passion Sunday. "Tune in" to the website and click for music videos curated by Eunjung Ahn, a Readers' Theater Scripture reading, and a brief meditation. Then Zoom in at 10:45 for our Prayer & Fellowship time. Remember: you don't need a computer, but can simply call in!

Thursday, April 9, 7 pm: On Maundy Thursday, let's offer extra thanks for our front-line workers, and extra prayers for our world.

Friday, April 10, 3 pm: Good Friday United Gospel Service with West End Presbyterian Church by Zoom Meeting. I will send the information our by separate email when we get closer.

Sunday, April 12: Easter Sunday

8 am: West End PC Easter Sunrise Service, by Zoom Meeting

I will send the information our by separate email when we get closer.

Any time: **The Day of Resurrection Virtual Worship!** "Tune in" to the website and click for music videos, Scripture readings, and a brief meditation. Then "Zoom in" at 10:45 for our Prayer & Fellowship time. And **bring your Easter noisemakers** with you! (Bells, whistles, pot lids – whatever – and get ready to make a joyful noise.)

Sunday, April 19: Anytime: The 2nd Sunday of Easter. "Tune in" to the website and click for music videos, Scripture readings, and a brief meditation. Then "Zoom in" at 10:45 for our Prayer & Fellowship time.

Thursday, April 23, 6:15 pm: Session meeting, by Zoom.

Friday, April 24, 4 pm: Confirmation Class via Zoom.

Sunday, April 26: Anytime: The 3rd Sunday of Easter. "Tune in" to the website and click for music videos, Scripture readings, and a brief meditation. Then "Zoom in" at

10:45 for our Prayer & Fellowship time.

Some extra notes about Holy Week and Easter

Palm-Passion Sunday, April 5

Don't forget One Great Hour of Sharing. We will dedicate our offering when we reconvene - but meanwhile, you can give online, either through the church website, or pcusa.org.

Good Friday, April 10 and Easter Sunday, April 12

We are grateful to Rev. Alistair Drummond and all our friends at West End Presbyterian Church for inviting us to worship with them on Good Friday, and early Easter morning.
(Links above in the calendar)

Before Easter – get ready to mark the return of the Alleuias in our Sunday Prayer & Fellowship meeting! Find or make a noisemaker or bell, or just grab a couple of pot lids to bang together every time you hear the word Alleluia during our Zoom meeting!

As I've been saying, we will celebrate the Day of Resurrection whenever it is that we can worship together in person again - but meanwhile, despite the pandemic, despite our fears and hardship - we can rejoice that Christ is alive, for that is God's doing, and does not depend on us!

Another collection of random but I hope useful information:

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Now more than ever – vote!

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that the New York presidential primary election has been postponed until June 23, 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic.
(The same date as the state legislative and congressional primaries.)

But you still may want to vote by absentee ballot, and Martha L. kindly sent us this information:

Contact info for the Board of Elections if you would like to arrange an absentee ballot if you do not have a printer on hand:

Electioninfo@boe.nyc.ny.us

Here is the request form itself, if you can print it:

<https://vote.nyc/sites/default/files/pdf/forms/absenteevoting/absenglish.pdf>

You may want to know your voting site, which you can discover here:

<https://vote.nyc/>

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Tips for Remaining Calm (From NYC Employee Assistance Programs)

Focus on what you can control, let go of what you can't.

Be cautious of over exposing yourself to news coverage. If the news is making you anxious, don't be afraid to take a break from it. It's OK to pace yourself with information.

Don't forget to laugh!

Practice good hygiene, eat healthy and exercise.

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NYC Well

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/nyc-well.page>

NYC Well is your connection to free, confidential crisis counseling, mental health and substance misuse support, information and referral. You can reach the toll-free help line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by phone, text and online chat. Mental health professionals there can link you to the services you need.

To contact NYC Well, call:

- **1-888-NYC-WELL** (1-888-692-9355)
- **1-888-692-9355** (Español)
- **1-888-692-9355** (中文)
- **711** (TTY for hearing impaired)

You can also reach NYC Well by texting "WELL" to 651-73, or visit their web site for more information. NYC Well counselors are available 24/7. They can provide bilingual

help in Spanish, Mandarin and Cantonese. Additionally, NYC Well offers translation services in more than 200 languages.

Health insurance is not required. Depending on your phone/text service, you may be charged a fee.

When to Contact NYC Well

One in five New Yorkers suffer from a mental health problem or substance use disorder, and too many go untreated. Mental illness and substance misuse are both treatable, but only if those in need can connect to care. NYC Well is an easy starting point for New Yorkers to find mental health and substance misuse support.

NYC Well could help you or someone you know if you are:

- Worried drugs or alcohol are taking over your life or your partner's life.
 - Concerned about changes in a teenager's behavior.
- So stressed you struggle with work or other daily activities.
 - Sad, lonely and/or struggling to leave your home.

Services

NYC Well's counselors and peer specialists are trained to listen to you and provide the following services:

- Short-term counseling
- Suicide prevention and other crisis intervention
 - Peer support
- Information and referral
 - Follow-up services

More Mental Health Resources

- [Crisis Services/Mental Health Main Page](#)
 - [Mobile Crisis Teams](#)
- [Child & Adolescent Mental Health Emergency/Crisis Services](#)
- [Domestic Violence: Resources for Health Care Providers](#)

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Some places creative artists can turn to for help during the pandemic

Help for musicians and other performing

artists: https://www.billboard.com/articles/business/9337908/coronavirus-resource-guide-music-professionals-help?fbclid=IwAR3WqUZJrHxOQ96iyX_E2X_U1XnKZDq8Hei98iBWRhwI_oszq14InwuaIU

A list of COVID-19 resources for freelance artists is specifically designed to serve freelance artists, and those interested in supporting the independent artist community. (This includes, but is not limited to, actors, designers, producers, technicians, stage managers, musicians, composers, choreographers, visual artists, filmmakers, craft artists, teaching artists, dancers, writers & playwrights, photographers, etc.) <https://covid19freelanceartistresource.wordpress.com/>

Please keep in your prayers...

all those who mourn, among them Scott's family;
all who suffer in any way from the COVID-19 virus, including those most at risk from serious complications; all those who are heroically working to see us through this: our state, local and federal government officials, first responders, all healthcare workers, food service, grocery and pharmacy workers and delivery people; all those from our community who are far from loved ones, including Cecilia, Lauren, and those in nursing homes and care facilities; the sick and the lonely and the fearful; 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.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

***As always, stay safe, be smart, be caring -
and know your church is here for you, even from a distance.
Please keep in touch!***