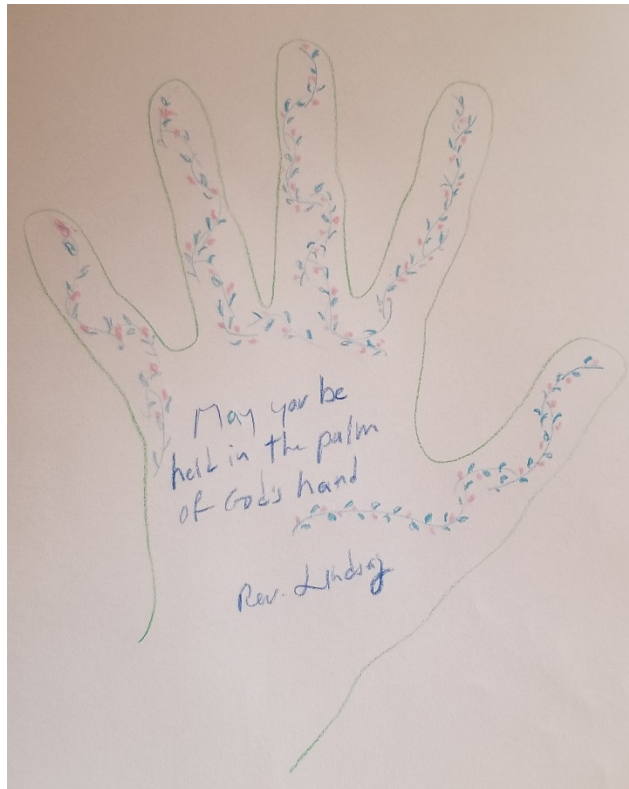


The SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in the City of New York
Weekly pastoral newsletter for the Week of Sunday July 19, 2020



*But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me."
Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.
See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands..."
Isaiah 49: 14 - 6*

Dear Friends in Christ,

A colleague is being ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in a couple of weeks - over Zoom! And the invitation invited us all to make colorful tracings of our hands, to surround him at the ordination, since we can't be there in person. I thought it was a lovely idea, and promptly stole it!

So I invite you all, younger and older and in between, to please trace your hand onto a piece of paper, write a prayer or a hope or blessings in the palm, add your name, and color and decorate however the Spirit moves you. (My example above.) Then take a picture of your drawing and email it to me. Or if you can't do that, just mail your hardcopy to my home address!

The Isaiah quote, where God says "I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands," reminds us that we are indeed precious to God - and to one another. So, send me your

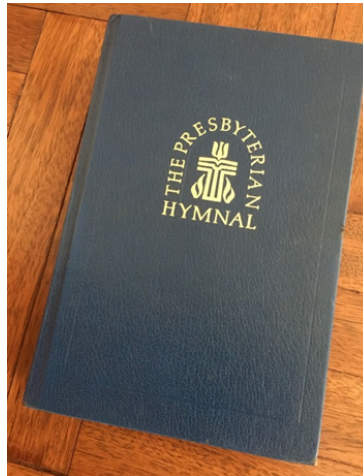
palms! And I'll use them in future bulletins, emails and/or PowerPoints – as a symbol of the way we are holding each other up, and God is holding us all.

Deacon Benevolences

I went to the actual church building this past week - and though I did not like traveling on a crowded bus, I happily saw with my own eyes that the church is still there!! And it was great to see Sexton Pete and support staff Mauro and Leroy. I also got the chance to pick up some mail - and found many thanks-you notes for the benevolence donations which the Deacons worked so hard to get mailed out at the beginning of the pandemic, to places they felt might need it most. (Wisely, they have kept some money in reserve, and will be distributing that in the fall.)

Broadway Presbyterian, Church of Gethsemane, God's Love We Deliver all sent missives of gracious appreciation and thanks. And we are grateful for the work they do, and proud to be able to support it in our own small way.

Blue Presbyterian Hymnals (1990) still available - don't be the only kid on your block without one! Contact Nancy.



LOOKING AHEAD

Last week, I reminded us all (including myself) that we don't know what the future holds - and specifically, we don't know when Second Presbyterian Church will be able to open its welcoming red doors to all. But, yes, the Worship & Music Committee is actively reviewing State and Church guidelines, and we are working on a plan to recommend to Session. Once they approve that, and keeping in mind that things can change quickly, we hope we can share it with you soon.

Meanwhile, I emphasize that we plan to go slowly and carefully because, again, everyone's safety and wellbeing is the primary concern of the Worship and Music Committee and the Session.

And we continue to be very grateful for your support - and for the church staff who is doing much work behind the scenes. (And more on your staff in future issues!)

A friend sent this photo from New Jersey. I love that something as ephemeral as a rainbow is a sign of God's everlasting care for her creation. It reminds me that the signs of God's care are all around us, fleeting though they appear.

"God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." Genesis 9: 12 – 13, 16



God be with you, until we meet again.

love and light,
Rev. Lindsay