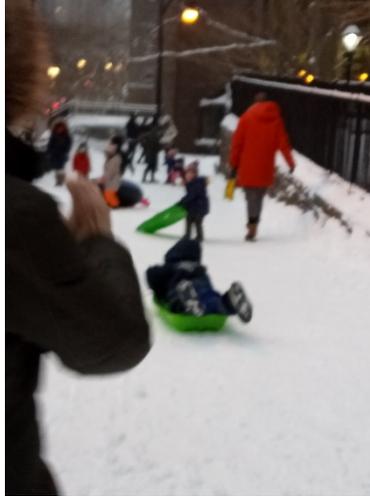


**THE SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in the CITY OF NEW YORK
Pastoral Newsletter for February 2021**

EPIPHANY to LENT



The joy of sledding in the midst of the city. God is good!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Did you hear the news: **SPC elects PNC!**

For any who aren't fluent in Presbyterian (and why should you be?), that means that Second Presbyterian Church elected members to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee. And, as we not only elected them at our Annual Meeting, but commissioned them as well, they will soon begin the active search for SPC's new pastor. Thanks be to God!

Your PNC members are Elaine Steele, Elaine Song, Lisa Infield-Harm, Nancy Hughes, Gordon Bakoulis. They have been charged with identifying the pastor whom God is calling to this church. *Your* charge is to keep them – and your future pastor – in prayer.

At the Annual Meeting the church also elected:

For Session, Class of 2024: Elders Bruce Ewing, Sam Riggs, and Patti Van Dyke.

For the Board of Deacons, Class of 2022: Barbara Winn

Class of 2024: Barbara Quick and Maxine Soares

For the 2021 Church Nominating Committee: Member at Large Cecilia Blewer (third one year; (soon to be) Deacon Maxine Soares and Ruling Elder Patti Van Dyke

Thanks to all who presented at and attended our first ever Virtual Annual Meeting – well done, people!

Communion AND Lunar New Year Celebration on February 7

The Lunar New Year begins February 12, marking the transition between zodiac signs: 2021 is the year of the Ox; 2020 was the year of the Rat (and *that* should surprise no one). We'll mark the occasion on February 7, when we'll also celebrate Communion. So along with your bread and wine, be sure to have a paper bag ready to blow up and pop (or bubble wrap, or a balloon and pin), to scare away the ghosts of 2020. We don't believe in ghosts, you say? True – Jesus might call them demons. Whatever, there were plenty of evil spirits that we are all too happy to send packing, even if it's only a metaphor!

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 17



This year we will again mark Ash Wednesday – but without ashes, as we will meet virtually, at a 6 pm worship service. With scripture, prayer, meditation, music and the sacrament of communion, we will begin our Lenten journeys.

Before Lent begins, you'll each receive a lovely booklet of Lenten devotions published by *The Presbyterian Outlook* magazine. We will send it out mostly by email, with the “regulars” receiving by postal mail. If you would like a hard copy, please contact Office Admin Virginia Danner.

Looking ahead in Lent, we will have two special services in March:

March 14, the 4th Sunday of Lent, will be a Prayer & Fellowship gathering *with* a Blessing of the Animals. So invite your pet to join us for worship (and feel free to have a photo of your creature available, in case they don't want to sit still!).

March 21, the 5th Sunday in Lent, is Justice Advocacy Sunday in the PCUSA, and our service will focus on issues of justice.

And looking ahead to Easter, April 4 – another Music Sunday, with music curated and directed by Eunjung Ahn, will enhance our joyful celebration of the resurrection!

Call for Musicians!

Minister of Music, Ms. Eunjung Ahn, invites any and all church musicians (singers and/or instrument players) to offer their gifts in a Sunday service, by sharing a hymn or an anthem – and not just on Easter Sunday! Call or email Eunjung if you're interested – or even think you might be!

FEBRUARY AT SPC

All worship and meetings continue on Zoom for the time being.

Sunday February 7: 10 AM Mini Sunday School; **10:15 AM.** On this 5th Sunday after Epiphany, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion *and* mark Lunar New year (see above).

After worship, Session will meet with new officers to "examine" (read: "talk with") them for office, in accord with our constitution.

Thursday, February 11, 5:30 - 6:30 PM: Our Anti-Racism Group resumes its work by welcoming guest speaker, community organizer Ms. Valeta Brown of Community Voices Heard. She will present an overview of some of the issues we've been wrestling with, and then we'll talk about some action options. *All are welcome*, even if you haven't been part of the group before. Details sent out by email. Feel free to call Rev. Lindsay for info.

Sunday, February 14: 10 AM Mini Sunday School; **10:15 AM.** As we celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord, we will also ordain and install our new church officers. Please plan to stay to the end - after the benediction, there will be a special musical valentine offering from our beloved soloists, Kyung Hee Kim & Marcel Sokalski. 

Monday, February 15: Presidents Day Holiday.

Wednesday, February 17, 6 PM: Virtual Ash Wednesday Service with Communion. 

Sunday February 21: 10 AM Mini Sunday School; **10:15 AM.** The 1st Sunday in Lent will be a Prayer & Fellowship gathering, with the sermon podcast posted ahead of time.

Wednesday February 24, 12 noon: Zoom Monthly Prayer Meeting. Contact Vivian, Karen or Lindsay for details.

Sunday February 28: 10 AM Mini Sunday School; **10:15 AM.** The 2nd Sunday in Lent.

Apparently the groundhog said six more weeks of winter, which some of us aren't too happy about – though I doubt this jaunty fellow minds! But there is something to be said for the quiet of city streets after a snowfall, the beauty of the blanket of clean snow covering so many imperfections, the delight of children (and others!). A city snowfall can be magical.

Yet we are mindful of those who must venture out in such weather, of those who don't have shelter, or enough warmth in their homes or their lives to offset winter's chill. So even as we're tempted to grumble, we count our blessings and pray for those in need. And I share this prayer, from the Jesuits, to help us through these remaining winter days.

Lord:

*In the midst of Winter, when the days are cold and wind can pierce,
remind us of the warmth of your love.*

*In the midst of Winter, when days are short, dawn comes late, and dusk arrives early,
remind us that in the darkness your light still shines.*

*In the midst of Winter, when the flowers of spring still lie hidden in the earth,
when leaves are off the trees, and the world can seem bleak,
remind us that Easter is but a short time away.*

*And when in our lives we feel as if we are experiencing a season of winter,
reach out to us with the power of your resurrection, so that we may feel the warmth of your love
and see your light that alone can take away the darkness of our soul. Amen.*



God be with you, until we meet again.

love and light,
Rev. Lindsay

Second Presbyterian Church NYC

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