

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

**THE SEASON OF EASTERTIDE**



Dear Friends in Christ,

As you read this, I am still enjoying (I'm sure) my week off, but thanks to technology, I write this before my vacation starts. Ah, the miracle of Gmail Schedule Send!

Even though the church building is still closed for worship and meeting purposes, even though we miss seeing one another in person *so much*, it's been a surprisingly rewarding Lenten season. From the Lenten Devotional offered by *Presbyterian Outlook* which so many of you have told me you appreciate, to our Blessing of the Animals and Justice Advocacy Sunday, to the energetic waving of delivered palms (thanks again to the Bunny Brigade!) and the solemn reading of the Passion narrative, on to worshipping with our friends at West End Pres for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday - I think we can say we really did Lent this year!

Which made the beauty of Easter Day all the more stirring. With gratitude for Minister of Music Eunjung Ahn and her extraordinary efforts, Sunday School teacher Joel Ahn who manages to engage our children with his mini-lessons, for the Worship Music Committee, for the Tech Team of Roger and Gordon, for Pete and Virginia for all the extra ordering things and running around, for the wonderful prayer group who always keep the church in prayer, for all those who helped lead and plan worship and who offered their gifts to God in words and sung and played music - for all of you, I give thanks to God, and look forward to celebrating a joyful and enriching Season of Eastertide.

It may have been over a year since we closed our doors, but we're still here! Alleluia!

## Staff Schedules

Especially with a virtual church, it can be hard to know when people are working, so for your information:

**Sexton Pete Spano** is off on Thursdays. And remember, he is on call for emergencies 24/7, but shouldn't actually be called 24/7 if you can help it!

**Church Office Admin Virginia Danner** is off the weekend plus Mondays, and works Tuesdays - Fridays, 11 - 2.

**Minister of Music Eunjung Ahn** is off at least Mondays and Fridays, and generally at the church sometime on Wednesdays.

**Interim Pastor Lindsay Borden** is off Mondays (and Saturdays when possible) - and prefers not to be called before 9 in the morning or after 6 in the evening, on any day, unless it's an emergency or by appointment! As the weather improves, I also hope to be at the church more regularly, probably on Wednesdays.

All of this is subject to change, especially once we reopen, so we'll keep you posted. Meanwhile, your staff greatly appreciates your thoughtfulness and support!

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## Ranked Choice Voting

As many of you know, the NYC Mayoral Primary Elections are coming! The 2021 New York City mayoral election will consist of Democratic and Republican primaries on June 22, 2021, followed by a general election on November 2, 2021. The primaries will be the first New York City mayoral election primaries to use ranked-choice, instant-runoff voting, as opposed to the plurality voting of previous primaries.

Thanks to our friend Valeta Brown of Community Voices Heard, some of us were able to attend a Zoom training about Ranked Choice Voting. I'll let you know if more sessions are scheduled, meanwhile, here's some info from

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/civicengagement/voting/ranked-choice-voting.page>

### Why are we using Ranked Choice Voting?

New Yorkers elected to use Ranked Choice Voting in a 2019 ballot measure. It passed with 73.5% support.

### Which elections will use Ranked Choice Voting?

NYC will use Ranked Choice Voting in primary and special elections for local offices: Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President, and City Council.

Ranked Choice Voting will be used in all Special Elections taking place after January 1, 2021. The first citywide election with Ranked Choice Voting will be the Primary Election on June 22, 2021.

### **How does Ranked Choice Voting work?**

You can rank up to five candidates in order of preference, instead of choosing just one. If a candidate receives more than 50% of first-choice votes, they are the winner. If no candidate earns more than 50% of first-choice votes, then counting will continue in rounds. At the end of each round, the candidate with the fewest votes will be eliminated. If you ranked that candidate first, your vote will go to the next highest ranked candidate on your ballot. This process will continue until there are 2 candidates left. The candidate with the most votes wins.

And this website is also informative: <https://rankthevoteny.org/> and lets you practice ranking your votes.

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### **APRIL AT SPC**

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

**Stay tuned! Weather permitting we'll have a Saturday Afternoon in the Park later in April. Details to come.**

**Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7 PM:** On this Maundy Thursday, SPC is invited to worship with our friends **at West End Presbyterian Church**. It is a **communion service**, so bring your bread and wine. For Zoom info contact Rev. Lindsay.

**Good Friday, April 2, 3 PM:** As we have in the past, we will join with West End Presbyterian Church for a special service on the most solemn day of the Christian calendar. For Zoom info contact Rev. Lindsay.

**The Day of Resurrection! Sunday April 4, 10 AM Sunday School, 10:15 worship:** We will celebrate Easter Day with lots of Special Music, thanks to Eunjung Ahn. Don't forget to have your Communion, and feel free to dress in your Easter finery (why not wear a bonnet?!) and have a whistle or other noisemaker handy for the Alleluias! **The Zoom will stay open after worship for any who want to exchange Easter greetings in a virtual Fellowship Hour!**

**Sunday, April 11, 10:15 AM worship:** On this Second Sunday of Easter, Lindsay, Eunjung and Joel will be off. So, there will be **no Sunday School**. But there will be a wonderful **Guest Preacher, the Rev. Phil Tom**, who will also stay after worship for a conversation about mission discernment and getting to know the needs of our neighborhood.

**Sunday, April 18, 10 AM Sunday School, 10:15 AM worship:** This is the Third Sunday of Easter, and your worship staff will be back!

**Wednesday April 21, 12 noon: Zoom Monthly Prayer Meeting.** Contact Vivian, Karen or Lindsay for details.

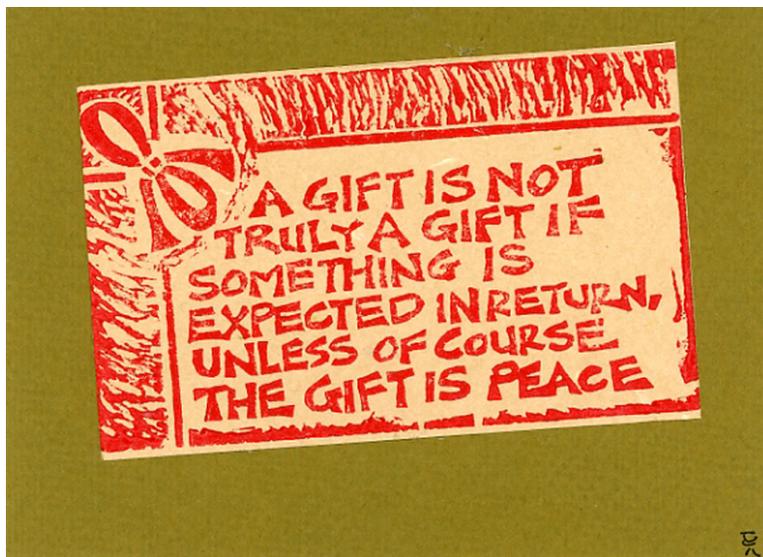
**Sunday, April 25, 10 AM Sunday School, 10:15 AM worship:** The service on the Fourth Sunday of Easter will be a Prayer and Fellowship gathering.

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**WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY**  
**10:15 AM Zoom Worship**  
**(10 AM mini–Sunday School for children!)**

For the Zoom link or dial in number, please contact Virginia Danner, Office Manager, Tuesdays – Fridays, at: (347) 918-7914, [vdanner@secondpresbyteriannyc.org](mailto:vdanner@secondpresbyteriannyc.org)

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Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."



God be with you until we meet again.  
love and light,  
*Rev. Lindsay*

Second Presbyterian Church in the City of New York  
Mailing Address: 3 West 95th Street, New York, NY 10025-6753  
Church Office: (212) 749-1700, [info@secondpresbyteriannyc.org](mailto:info@secondpresbyteriannyc.org)  
Rev. Lindsay Borden, Interim Pastor: (347) 920-8120, [lborder@secondpresbyteriannyc.org](mailto:lborder@secondpresbyteriannyc.org)  
Minister of Music Eunjung Ahn: [ejahn@secondpresbyteriannyc.org](mailto:ejahn@secondpresbyteriannyc.org)  
Virginia Danner, Office Manager & Space Use Coordinator: (347) 918-7914,  
[vdanner@secondpresbyteriannyc.org](mailto:vdanner@secondpresbyteriannyc.org)  
Pete Spano, Sexton: [pspanosexton@gmail.com](mailto:pspanosexton@gmail.com)