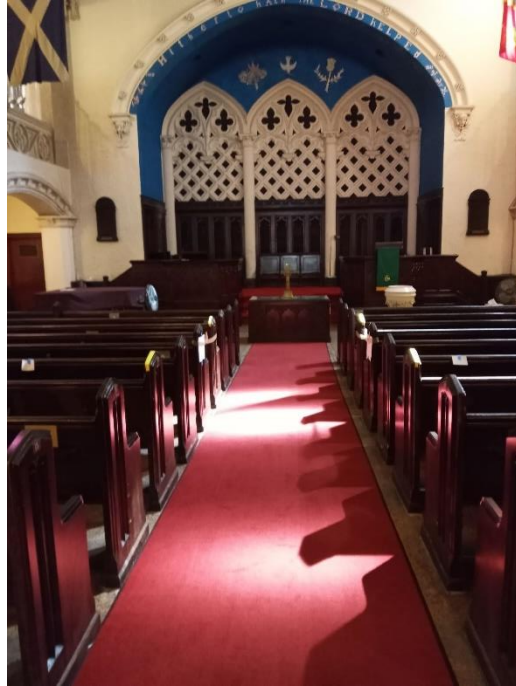


THE SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in the CITY OF NEW YORK
Pastoral Newsletter for August 2021



Do you remember what your church looks like? It's beautiful!

Dear Friends in Christ,

The news of the coronavirus – statistics, variants, mandates, boosters – changes almost hourly, it seems. So, your church leadership is going to do the only thing we can do – move forward with our plan to open for in-person worship in mid-to-late September, while being prepared to put the brakes on at any point, because it makes no sense to have endured so much, only to put you all at risk now. We will trust that God will keep us being church, however we worship and meet and reach out to the world.

So join us for Zoom worship on August 22 and then stay afterward for a discussion with the Worship & Music Committee about what “re-opening” might look like and what your thoughts are – and how you might be able to help. I look forward to seeing you!

SPC SUMMER BOOK CLUB

The logo for the SPC Summer Book Club. It features a stack of three books (green, blue, and white) on the left and a smiling sun with rays on the right. The text "SPC Summer Book Club" is centered in blue, with "hosted by anti-racism group" in smaller blue text below it. The dates and book titles are listed at the bottom: "July 22nd- Passing by Nella Larsen" and "August 19th Our Time is Now by Stacey Abrams". At the very bottom, it says "Meetings will be held via Zoom 6:00 pm- 7:00 pm link to follow".

SPC
Summer
Book Club
hosted by anti-racism group

July 22nd- Passing by Nella Larsen
August 19th Our Time is Now by Stacey Abrams

Meetings will be held via Zoom
6:00 pm- 7:00 pm
link to follow

All are invited to our second Summer Book Club meeting on **Thursday August 19, 6-7 pm**. We'll discuss **Our Time Is Now, by Stacey Abrams**. Read as much of the book as you can – even if that means no reading, you're welcome to join us! Zoom info will be sent out the day of the gathering.

About **Our Time Is Now**: A recognized expert on fair voting and civic engagement, Abrams chronicles a chilling account of how the right to vote and the principle of democracy have been and continue to be under attack. Abrams would have been the first African American woman governor, but experienced these effects firsthand, despite running the most innovative race in modern politics as the Democratic nominee in Georgia. Abrams didn't win, but she has not conceded. The book compellingly argues for the importance of robust voter protections, an elevation of identity politics, engagement in the census, and a return to moral international leadership.



A helpful note from the PCUSA

Please spread the word about emergency rental assistance. Help is available for renters who are having trouble paying rent, utilities or other housing costs as well as for landlords who have tenants in this situation. State and local programs are distributing billions of dollars in rental assistance.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) recently developed a new "Rental Assistance Finder" tool for renters and landlords to find information on rental assistance in their area. The tool is now live at: <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/renthelp>. The CFPB's site also includes resources to help renters and landlords understand other resources to help navigate various financial hardships related to the pandemic.

For additional information about the Emergency Rental Assistance program, [visit the unified federal housing assistance portal hosted by the CFPB](#).

AUGUST AT SPC

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

Sunday, August 1, 10:15 AM: Worship with Communion.

Sunday, August 8, 10:15 AM: Worship with Guest Preacher Bram Lewis!

Sunday, August 15, 10:15 AM: Worship with Guest Preacher Cecilia Blewer!

Thursday, August 19, 6 – 7 PM: Summer Book Club, on Zoom. Link will be sent out as we get closer.

Sunday, August 22, 10:15 AM: Worship. This Sunday the PNC will Shine a Light on their latest activities. **After worship:** The Worship & Music Committee will share plans and answer as many questions as we can about what to expect in mid-September when we hope to reopen for “flesh and blood” worship!

Sunday, August 29, 10:15 AM: This last Sunday in August will be a Prayer and Fellowship gathering.

WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY 10:15 AM on Zoom through September 12

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

Looking Ahead

As is traditional, there will be no worship service on Sunday, September 5 (Labor Day weekend). We hope to hold a Zoom Communion service on September 12, and in-person worship in the SPC sanctuary on September 19, God willing and the pandemic under control.

Holiday Notes

Rev. Lindsay will be on vacation August 2 – 8, and then in and out the rest of August (plans are still up in the air due to COVID 19 issues...). But I'll always be reachable in an emergency!

Sexton Pete will be on vacation August 22 through Labor Day, September 6.

On my way to visit our friend Vivian the other day, I looked down and found this tiny heart at my feet, reminding me that God's love is all around us, all the time.



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

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