

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



It's summer – put your feet up!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Summer's here! And as we slowly but surely begin to emerge from the pandemic shut down, and look ahead to the future, I hope you are making plans for vacations or staycations or simply adding some "downtime" into your weekly routine. The past year and a half has been full of anxiety and stress – and the anxiety is still with us.

So even if you can't get away, or not for as long as you'd like, I hope you will be able to savor God's gift of summer. Spend a little more time in your nearest park. Visit the Harlem Meer or the Conservatory Garden or Wave Hill. Take a half-day get-away to City Island, or Coney Island – nothing says summer like fried clams or a Nathan's hotdog seasoned with an ocean breeze! Or just remind yourself that Manhattan is an island, and relax by the Hudson or the East River. Have a long phone chat with a friend who's far away – and maybe even see a closer friend in person! Venture out to a movie theater – or a movie or concert outdoors. Treat yourself to an ice cream cone or a hot pretzel.

As one of my favorite psalm verses says, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows forth God's handiwork" (Ps. 19:1). So as we enjoy God's glory this summer, and the intricate work of God's hands, let's join the heavens in giving thanks. Amen!

PNC NEWS

The Pastor Nominating Committee has reviewed nearly 40 applications to date and in late June we began interviewing candidates. We will continue to interview candidates

via Zoom through July and into August. We are also promoting the position nationally, through seminary websites and looking at advertising in progressive Christian periodicals. If any of you knows someone you'd like to refer to us, you can encourage them to apply, either by sending a resume and cover letter to our PNC email address: SecondPresPNC@gmail.com, or via the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection: <https://clc.pcusa.org/CIFViewQuery.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fOpportunitySearchResults.aspx&cif=05610.AB>.

We emphasize that the process is protected to ensure confidentiality; we can't talk about individual candidates, whose current employers may not know that they're looking. Please keep the PNC in your prayers and pray for our congregation and for the person God is calling to find us.

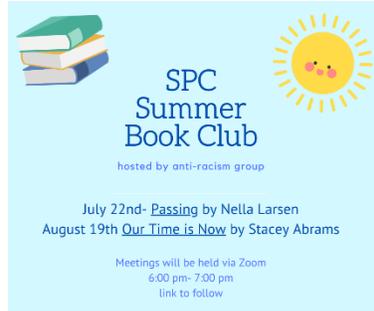
Summer Events to Look Forward To:

Saturday in the Park with Second: Saturday July 10, 1:30-2:30 pm (rain date: July 17).

SPC Anti-Racism Group Summer Book Club: Thursdays July 22 and August 19, 6-7 pm. Zoom link will be sent out as we get closer. More info below.

SPC Goes to the Movies: Maybe! We're working on it, so stay tuned...

SPC SUMMER BOOK CLUB



Here are the choices for our Summer Book Club sponsored by the SPC Anti-Racism Group. This should give you time to get hold of and read the book. Consider buying from an independent and/or black-owned bookstore – two I know of are: <http://www.thelitbar.com/> and <http://www.sistersuptownbookstore.com/> Or borrow from the library!

Note: If you don't have time to finish reading the books by the meeting dates, please still come and bring your thoughts-in-progress!

Passing by Nella Larsen (Discussion: Thursday, July 22, 6 pm)

First published to critical acclaim in 1929, *Passing* firmly established Nella Larsen's prominence among women writers of the Harlem Renaissance. Irene Redfield, the novel's protagonist, is a woman with an enviable life. She and her husband, Brian, a prominent physician, share a comfortable Harlem town house with their sons. Her work arranging charity balls that gather Harlem's elite creates a sense of purpose and respectability for Irene. But her hold on this world begins to slip the day she encounters Clare Kendry, a childhood friend with whom she had lost touch. Clare—light-skinned, beautiful, and charming—tells Irene how, after her father's death, she left behind the black neighborhood of her adolescence and began passing for white, hiding her true identity from everyone, including her racist husband. As Clare begins inserting herself into Irene's life, Irene is thrown into a panic, terrified of the consequences of Clare's dangerous behavior. And when Clare witnesses the vibrancy and energy of the community she left behind, her burning desire to come back threatens to shatter her careful deception.

Our Time Is Now, by Stacey Abrams (Discussion: Thursday August 19, 6 pm)

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.

JULY AT SPC

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

Sunday, July 4, 10:15 AM: Worship. This Independence Day, we celebrate our dependence on God and our unity with one another with the sacrament of communion.

Saturday, July 10, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: Saturday in the Park with Second! (Rain date: July 17)

Sunday, July 11, 10:15 AM: Worship.

Sunday, July 18, 10:15 AM: Worship.

Thursday, July 22, 6 PM: Summer Book Club.

Sunday, July 25, 10:15 AM: Worship. This Sunday will be a Prayer & Fellowship gathering, and the PNC will Shine a Light on what they've been up to.

NOTE: The Wednesday Monthly Prayer Group will not meet in July (though all will keep praying for the church and the world). We'll let you know when the next meeting is scheduled.

Save the Date: Sunday, August 22, after Zoom worship: The Worship & Music Committee will share plans and answer as many questions as we can about what to expect in mid-September when, God willing, we will reopen for "flesh and blood" worship!

**WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY
10:15 AM on Zoom**

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

Please note that Virginia will be on vacation July 6 – 20, so you can contact Rev. Lindsay in the meantime.

My niece Meghan gave me this ZZ plant – she says even I'll be able to keep it alive.
Happy Summer, y'all, whatever garden you're tending!



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

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