

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



No day shall erase you from the memory of time ~ Virgil
Installation at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum

Dear Friends in Christ,

This year we mark the 20th anniversary of 9/11. I had been putting off visiting the 9/11 Memorial and Museum but recently went with out-of-town family. And yes, the experience was a bit PTSD-y, but also profound, informative, thoughtful, respectful to the victims and their families. One exhibit highlighted the outpouring of love and support for New York, DC and PA from across the world. And across the country. Remember *United We Stand*? Remember that sense of solidarity and care?

Was it only an illusion? Perhaps so, for in the face of another horrific event, a pandemic that took many more lives in this country than were taken on that day twenty years ago, our nation is fractured by mistrust and discord. Paul's statement has never seemed truer: "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23.) We certainly seem to have lost sight of the glorious image of God in our neighbors.

Yet recently *The New York Times* reported, "Americans Stretch Across Political Divides to Welcome Afghan Refugees," quoting a conservative policy promoter who said, "I am not looking at this from a political perspective; I'm coming from a decidedly biblical perspective." Maybe welcoming Afghan refugees can unite us. Maybe it won't last. But maybe, by God's incredible grace, such things can remind us all of what it means to work together for the common good, and what joy that can bring. May it be so.

KEEPING SAFE as COVID CONTINUES

The Session has instituted continued Covid protocols for ALL staff and building users.

- Staff members are required to have proof of vaccination, or a valid medical exemption.
- All building users, including the school, AA, the Chinese Community Church, as well as SPC staff and congregants, must wear masks and observe social distancing while in the building, regardless of vaccination status.

And a word about SPC and ARS respecting one another’s spaces: In the interest of pandemic protocols but also regular security as well, the church should use 96th Street, and the school 95th Street at all times. So, **if you are coming to the church for any reason, PLEASE do not use the 95th Street entrance (or exit)**. It makes our space safer for everyone.

Volunteer Opportunity

Helping Hands for the Disabled NYC is an organization that relies on volunteers and donations to help disabled people in NYC accomplish various tasks (grocery shopping, reading mail, filling out paperwork, help getting to doctor appointments, etc.) Most of the people they work with are partially or fully blind, so many everyday tasks become challenging without someone to help. They are seeking volunteers – and you can find more information at their website, <https://www.hhdnyc.org/>

Memorial Notes

Mariette (“Tine”) Buchman, ARS librarian for many years, passed away recently.

We are planning a Zoom Memorial Service for our dear Vivian Tom on Saturday, October 2, in the afternoon. Details will be announced as we get closer.

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

SEPTEMBER AT SPC

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

Sunday, September 12, 10:15 AM: Zoom Worship with Communion.

Saturday, September 18, 1:30 – 2:30 pm: Saturday in the Park with Second! Meet in Central Park at the benches near the entrance at 93rd Street and CPW.

Sunday, September 19, 10 AM Sunday School, 10:15 AM Worship: Mini Sunday School resumes this week. Before Zoom worship, the young and young at heart are invited to join the Zoom at 10 for an always lively time with teacher Joel Ahn.

Wednesday, September 22, 12 noon: The Monthly Wednesday prayer group will meet on Zoom. Please contact Rev. L or Karen Amrhein if you're new to the group and would like to join us.

Sunday, September 26, 10 AM Sunday School, 10:15 AM: This Sunday will be a Prayer and Fellowship gathering, with the sermon posted on the website ahead of time. And, since it's also the 4th Sunday, we'll hear from the hard-working PNC.

Save the Date: God willing, we will try in-person worship on Sunday October 17 (with a livestream option).

Scam Alert

Once again, I hear that someone is using a fake pastor's email address to try to scam people. Please know that I will NEVER email you that there's an emergency and I need you to send me money or a gift card or your bank account info or anything like that! As the Federal Trade Commission website advises:

If you get an unexpected email from your boss [or pastor!] asking for this kind of help:

- Don't pay for anything with a gift card. Gift cards are for gifts, not for payments. **If anyone asks you to pay with a gift card, it's a scam.**
- **Double-check** with your supervisor. Call your boss using a known number — not something that was written in the email.
- **Take a pause.** Can't reach your manager? Talk to a trusted coworker or friend. Tell them the situation and see what they would do.

Whatever you do, DO NOT REPLY to requests for money, gift cards, or personal information, and don't click on any links in the email. Sadly, scammers know church people are generous, so often target churches. But, as Jesus advised his followers, "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; *be wise as serpents* and innocent as doves." (Matt 10:16)

More from the FTC website at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts>

Staff Notes

Office Manager **Virginia Danner** will now work (from home, mostly) **Mondays – Thursdays, 11 AM – 2 PM**. Since the pastor is off on Mondays, this will mean there is someone in the virtual office on all business days

Sexton **Pete Spano** continues to enjoy his **day off on Thursdays**.

Farewell, summer!



But hello, beautiful season of fall!

God be with you until we meet again.

Life, love and light,

Rev. Lindsay

Second Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

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