

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



*A sign in Grand Central: "London is satisfied, Paris is resigned, but New York is always hopeful. Always it believes that something good is about to come off, and it must hurry to meet it." ~ Dorothy Parker*

Dear Friends in Christ,

A word about returning to in-person worship on October 17.

Almost two-thirds of survey respondents told us they are ready to give in-person worship a try, so we are planning our "trial run" in-person service for October 17 – with an option to watch the livestream of the service. More details, and a link to the livestream, will be sent out as we get closer.

But here are some things you might like to know:

You will be asked to sign in, so that we can contact trace if necessary.

You will be asked, optionally, to check a box saying whether or not you've been vaccinated.

Masks and social distancing will be required at all times in the sanctuary.

There will be no congregational singing (you can hum along with the soloist under your breath and under your mask!).

The service will start with the prelude at a few minutes before 10:15, and will end by 11:00.

There will be no Sunday School on this day.

There will be no fellowship hour – and you'll be asked to exit promptly after the service. We'll pray it's not too cold, and you'll be able to say hello to friends on the sidewalk – though not right in front of the church doors.

I know that seems like a lot of "No"s! But we want to keep everyone safe and comfortable, so please bear with us. Then we'll see how it goes on October 17. If all is well, we'll try again on another Sunday in November.

And we will, of course, continue to follow the guidance of the presbytery, the city and the CDC, and will let you know ASAP if anything changes. We have come this far by faith, and we will continue to be led by all the wisdom God sends to us!

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### **Peace and Global Witness Offering**

To celebrate World Communion Sunday (October 3), we invite you to participate in the PCUSA Peace and Global Witness Offering. Our church keeps 25% of what we collect, to donate to a local organization, or purchase supplies for our own work. You can send a check to Iza at the church, marked Peace & Witness Offering, but the best way to donate is online: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/peace-global-witness/>

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### **Supporting Reproductive Justice**

Members of the Anti-Racism Group will attend the march and rally for Reproductive Rights on October 2, sponsored by Women's March, Planned Parenthood, and other groups across the nation. There will be rallies in every state.

This is a sensitive issue in the church but, as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly said in 2006: "When an individual woman faces the decision whether to terminate a pregnancy, the issue is intensely personal, and may manifest itself in ways that do not reflect public rhetoric, or do not fit neatly into medical, legal or policy guidelines. Humans are empowered by the spirit prayerfully to make significant moral choices, including the choice to continue or end a pregnancy. Human choices should not be made in a moral vacuum, but must be based on Scripture, faith and Christian ethics. For any choice, we are accountable to God; however, even when we err, God offers to forgive us."

We'll let you know how the march goes, and about other opportunities to stand up for justice.

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### **Annual NYC Presbytery Virtual Advocacy Day Saturday, October 16, 2021, 9 AM to 1 PM (on Zoom)**

- Learn the differences between various categories of immigrants, refugees and Special Immigrant Visa populations, and how to support those groups as they seek to build new lives in the United States
- Hear updates on criminal justice reforms and future legislative actions to support next steps
- Understand why climate change and environmental issues impact the poor disproportionately

- Discover what is really happening with vouchers and other pandemic-related housing relief; best practices to end homelessness

**More information and a link to come. Save the date of October 16 and let your friends know, too!**

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**WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY**

**10:15 AM on Zoom**

**(EXCEPT for Sunday, October 17!**

Worship that day will be in-person AND via Facebook – info to come)

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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**OCTOBER AT SPC**

**Saturday, October 2, 2 PM:** Women’s March/Reproductive Rights Rally.

**Sunday, October 3, 10 AM Sunday School, 10:15 AM Worship:** On Zoom. **This is** World Communion Sunday. Bring something special to eat and drink with Jesus today! And consider contributing to the PCUSA Peace and Global Witness Offering.

**Sunday, October 10, 10 AM Sunday School, 10:15 AM Worship:** On Zoom.

**Monday, October 11:** Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day. The virtual church office will be closed.

**Wednesday, October 13, 3 – 4 PM:** The Pastor Is In on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month, at least through November (temperature permitting). Drop by and say Hello!

**Saturday, October 16, 2021, 9 AM to 1 PM:** Annual NYC Presbytery Virtual Advocacy Day

**Sunday, October 17, 10:15 AM Worship: IN PERSON AND Live-streamed!** If attending in person, please arrive promptly, with your masks. Some details above, and more info will be sent out closer to the date.

**Sunday, October 24, 10 AM Sunday School, 10:15 AM:** Back on Zoom. On this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, we’ll hear from the wonderful PNC.

**Wednesday, October 27: 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. **3 – 4 PM:** The Pastor Is In!

**Thursday, October 28, 5:30 PM:** All are invited to attend the Anti-Racism Group Meeting, perhaps with a special guest. Stay tuned!

**Sunday, October 31, 10 AM Sunday School, 10:15 AM:** This will be a Prayer and Fellowship gathering. The sermon will be available ahead of time on our website.

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*My local branch of the New York Public Library is still not open, but I finally made it to the newly renovated Stavros Niarchos Foundation branch. So nice to take out a real book (or three), and not to read on my phone. Then, I spotted several people on the subway reading actual books. Along with so much else, it seems that books are back!*



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

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