

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



O Come, thou Wisdom from on high!

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the stores, signs of Christmas merriment appeared right after Halloween! The Church, however, teaches us not to rush so quickly into celebration. The word “advent” means “coming” – Jesus Christ coming to us, coming into the world.

Advent is a season of anticipation and hope, as we affirm our belief that Christ has come, and will come again. We await the birth of the Messiah, identifying with all who have walked in fear and longed for deliverance from the brokenness of the world.

Despite what the culture of instant gratification tells us, our Christmas joy will be superficial unless we have lived through the Advent weeks of anticipation and longing. Of course, you could rightly say that these past *two years* have been a time of waiting and longing. And we know about walking through anxious times. But this Advent, we can *choose* to walk, with intentionality and faith, on a spiritual journey that begins with yearning, moves on to hopeful expectation, and culminates in the joyful proclamation that our Savior is born – that we indeed have reason to hope, and to live our lives in the light of such hope. That is why we sing “O come, O come, Emmanuel” before we sing “Joy to the World!” For it will be all the sweeter when we do.

WORSHIP: SUNDAYS at 10:15 AM
In Person & on Facebook

We apologize for live streaming difficulties on November 28 (the video is now on Facebook). We hope to fix things for December 5.

TIME FOR NOMINATIONS!

The Church Nominating Committee is seeking suggestions for candidates for the office of elder and deacon. As Second Presbyterian looks forward to welcoming a new pastor, this is a wonderful opportunity to help lead the church into a new era!

If you are interested in serving or would like to recommend another church member (or have questions), **please contact Cecilia Blewer, Maxine Soares or Patti Van Dyke by December 6.** Thank you!

2 ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

A pdf of "Night Watch," a series of daily reflections and prayers for Advent, by Teri McDowell Ott of the *Presbyterian Outlook*, has been emailed to all. Anyone is free to request a printed version. Just call or write Virginia, and she'll be happy to send it out. There are also copies available at church.

There is another lovely devotional, "Come to Bethlehem and Be Nourished" by Donna Frischknecht Jackson of *Presbyterians Today*, which you can access online here: [Presbyterian Mission Agency Advent and Christmas Devotional for 2021 | Presbyterians Today | Presbyterian Mission Agency.](#)

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



Once again you may contribute a poinsettia or Christmas greenery to grace our sanctuary in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The last day for ordering is Sunday, December 12.

See details in the attached form. Fill out and drop it in the offering plate with your check, or call or write Virginia Danner, Mondays – Thursdays, at: (347) 918-7914, vdanner@secondpresbyteriannyc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTE

Though we have resumed in-person worship, there will be no in-person Sunday School until 2022 (date TBD; probably January 9 or 16). Until then, till December 26 we are excited that Sunday School teacher Joel Ahn will offer a Time with Young and Young-at-Heart Disciples during the regular in-person Sunday 10:15 AM worship service.

DECEMBER AT SPC



Sunday, December 5, 10:15 AM Worship: We will celebrate the 2nd Sunday of Advent and the Sacrament of Communion. If you're joining us on Facebook, feel free to prepare your communion elements and share in the communion.

Wednesday, December 8, 3 – 4 PM: The Pastor Is In. (Weather permitting.)

Thursday, December 9, 6 pm: On Zoom. All are welcome to join the Anti-Racism group in welcoming our special guest, Charmaine Massiah, our presbytery's Justice Ministry Committee Advocate. *Email me if you're new to the group and want Zoom info.*

Sunday, December 12, 10:15 AM Worship: Join us on the 3rd Sunday of Advent for a special interactive Christmas Pageant! Today is also the deadline for ordering Christmas poinsettias!

Sunday, December 19, 10:15 AM Worship: This is the 4th Sunday of Advent!

Wednesday, December 22, 12 noon: On Zoom. The Monthly Wednesday prayer group will meet for prayers and Christmas fellowship. 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. (Again, weather permitting!)

Friday, December 24, 6 pm: Christmas Eve! Join us in the sanctuary for a short (half hour) worship service. Then we'll process out of our cheery red doors and sing carols and share cookies with passersby!

Saturday, December 25: Merry Christmas to all, and God bless us, everyone!

Sunday, December 26, 10:15 AM Worship: On this day after Christmas, come as you are! Seriously! Wear your reindeer PJs or your new Christmas sweater! The service will be simple and festive, with a story instead of a sermon, and hymns of the season.

NOTE: Lindsay, Eunjung, Joel & Virginia will be off December 27 – January 2.

SAVE THE DATES

We will celebrate January Communion on **January 9** (not on the 2nd).

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 30, after worship, in the Carnegie Library.

*Thanksgiving Day is past – but I am always thankful for y'all!
And I wish you a blessed, grateful and thankful Advent!*



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

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