Adult Sunday School
Gathered for Prayer Today, 10:20 a.m., Lincoln Chapel
Adventures in Prayer has become a group of people who gather each Sunday to pray for one another, for the people on the prayer/care list, for the church and the world. All questions, joys and concerns are welcome. Come any time.

Watching and Waiting: Advent Stories and Poems
Today at 10 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., PMH
The Annunciation, Advent and Christmas have generated a tremendous outpouring of art and literature across country and culture. This class will focus upon watching and waiting, two responses to the promise of the coming of God in flesh, as reflected in poetry and short stories. Gwenn Gehlband, Tom Dunlap and Paul Dorman will lead.

Evolution, Science and the Presbyterian Church
Today, 10 a.m. Docherty Center Church School
Protestant denominations in the United States have taken different approaches to reconciling the theory of evolution with biblical interpretation. An extreme position is rejection of evolution and adherence to creationism, in effect rejecting an overwhelming scientific consensus on the validity of evolutionary theory. This is not the PCUSA position. The historical roots of these different positions will be described and the PCUSA position will be presented. Len Shaban will lead the class.

Children and Youth Sunday School and Christmas Pageant Practice
Today, 10:00 a.m., PMH

Opportunities for Service
7-2-2 Club – Enjoy a Wednesday evening (6-9 p.m.), September through June, with guests recovering from mental illness. There are games, entertainment, refreshments and time for making friends. For more information, contact Spencer Gibbins, spencegib@hotmail.com.

Community Club – Washington D.C.’s oldest tutoring and mentorship program for public and charter school students needs adult volunteers to make a difference in a child’s life. Students and volunteers meet at the church on Thursday nights during the school year. Contact Karen Sasser at descargar@hotmail.com or go to www.communityclub.org for more information.

New York Avenue Educational Foundation - The NYAEF mission is to be a catalyst of educational advancement for youth in need in the Washington, DC community. Among other things, it solicits proposals and awards grants to grassroots organizations, including Community Club, to further impact DC students. Visit https://www.nyavef.org to learn more about how to apply.

Food for the Hungry – Non-perishable food donations are needed by the Capital Area Food Bank, the large nonprofit hunger and nutrition education resource in the Washington area. Donations that are at the rear of the Sanctuary and front desk.

Food Bank

Advent Stories and Poems
December 16 and 23 at 9 a.m., Lincoln Parlor

The Peace Candle – Visitors are invited to take a Peace Candle home to communicate your congratulations. Candles are at the back, right side, of the sanctuary. Please sign the note card there, so we may know who you are. For more information about the Peace and Justice Committee activities, contact Marilyn Seiber, mjs1wan2@gmail.com.

Triangle Park Committee – Working with the National Park Service to ensure maintenance and oversee the flower and plant beds along the church wall, we meet 4-5 times a year, conduct business via email, and schedule work days as needed. Contact Marilyn Seiber, mjs1wan2@gmail.com or Barry Tindall, barrytindall@verizon.net.

NYAPC Young Adults – For more information about Faith on Tap, Bible Study, fellowship and service, or to be added to the e-mail list, contact Helen Anthony (shannahsis@ncsu.edu) or Taylor Allison (taylorallon95@gmail.com).

NYAPC Parent’s Listserve – For more information about the NYAPC Parent’s Listserve, contact Susan Ross (sross@roche.com), Faith on Tap leader.

Annual Stewardship - Each of the ministries described on this page, as well as everything else that happens at this church, is supported in a significant way by Annual Stewardship giving. Annual Stewardship is the act of making a financial pledge to the church operating budget for a year and complying that pledge. It is a deep personal and congregational theological act, and it is essential to the worship, community, and mission of this church! Members, affiliates, and friends are all invited to participate in Annual Stewardship. Please contact Jane Game, the church Secretary, or Helen Anthony, the chair of the Annual Stewardship Committee, or Rev. Roger Gerch, the Senior Pastor, for more information, questions, or to make your pledge.

Volunteers are needed to staff the welcome table in the narthex, 20-30 minutes before Sunday service greeting and then 15-20 minutes after, to chat with visitors and members during coffee time. For more details, visit https://bit.ly/3OFpF6z or contact Helen Anthony (shannahsis@ncsu.edu) or Paul Dorman paul.dorman@nyapc.org.

Worship Service – Are you interested in ushering or serving as a liturgist during Sunday service? Please contact John Yoder at uckerst@adelphia.com (usher) or Mark Zaineladdin at zaineladin@gmail.com (liturgy) for more information.

Celebration of Worship
The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church welcomes all people in community, worship, service and leadership.

December 9, 2018
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude
“Is eis ein Ros’ entspringen”
Johannes Brahms

Introit
“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”
Tune of Turio, 1778
NYAPC Musical Ensemble
J. David Brown, Sheyna Burt, violins; Caroline Breithauer, viola; Josina Taylor, cello; Peter Ortle, bass

* Lincoln Chimes
I. The Community Gatherings for Worship
*The Lighting of Advent Candles: The Candle of Peace
8:45 a.m.
Kristin, Matt and William Ford
11:00 a.m.
Courtney, Jim and Sylvia Spearman

Call to Worship
Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
People: Christ is our light. By grace he came, in power he rose; we wait for Christ to come again.

Response:
Leader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for God has looked favorably upon God’s people and redeemed them.
People: God has raised up a mighty savior for us, as promised through the mouth of the prophets to save us from our enemies.
Leader: so we might serve God without fear in holiness and righteousness before God all our days.
[Response]
Leader: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.
People: to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.
[Response]
Prayer of Confession

God of the loving heart, we confess before you those places in our hearts where we have refused you entrance: people we have refused to love; habits we never get around to changing; good things we have left undone; and the ways in which we hurt you, ourselves, and others. Come to us in the light of your Christ. Shine on those places we have hidden from you. Show us new ways to live. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a home among us. Be known among us now and forever. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Passing of the Peace

*Response

#88, (verse 6), “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
Venetian Emmanuel
O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

*Prayer of Dedication

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, O Promised One. Once again we come to this place of Advent and await your presence. We pray that the giving of these gifts of money and time might be a spiritual practice for us. We pray that this practice of giving might teach us about seeking patience during these busy days, might teach us about the faith and hope to wait for the Savior, and might teach us the love that does not wait when it meets Christ in our neighbor. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Sending Hymn

#96, “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”
Winchester New
1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!
2 Then cleanse thyself by every life long received, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.
3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward; make straight the way for God within, and make every life from sin.
4 Stretch forth your hand; our health restore, and fill the world with love divine.

*Commissioning to Ministry and Benediction

*Congregational Response

Alleluia! Amen!

Postlude

“In Duke Juhlino” J. S. Bach

We wish to thank our choir, soloists, and string ensemble for their participation in worship this morning celebrating Advent.

The flowers in the chancel today are given to the glory of God by Jay Davenport in loving memory of his parents, Jay H. and Lillian Davenport.

The Peace Candle in the chancel reminds us to pray that Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of the Season will reign throughout the world, and that the coming of the Christ Child will not be forgotten as the true meaning and spirit of Christmas.

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Information for Sunday Visitors

We extend a warm welcome to visitors! We invite you to sign the guest book at the rear of the Sanctuary.

LARGE PRINT bulletins are now available for our worship services, including enlarged copies of the hymnals. Please pick one up if it’s helpful to you, or ask a Deacon usher.

Assisted Listening: Do you have difficulty hearing the service? Our assisted listening system may help you. The system consists of a small wireless receiver and an earphone. You may also use your own choice of ear phones or FM-coil equipped hearing aids with the receiver. Contact Joe Thierry at joethe15@yahoo.com or 703-568-5168 for more information.

Tours: Meet a tour guide at the front of the Sanctuary following the service to tour the building and learn about our congregation’s heritage, current ministry, and outreach.

Parking Garage: Free self-parking is available on Sundays in the garage next to the church at 1399 New York Avenue until 1 p.m. Please park in any non-reserved space.

Nursery and Quiet Spaces for Families with small children: We are so happy to have infants and children in worship with us. Our nursery, located in Room 317 (3rd Floor), is an option for babies and children 4 and under. Licensed, paid professionals provide care. The nursery open is from 8:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Parents are invited to feed their children in the sanctuary or if you prefer some privacy and a quiet place, we have some additional seating in the balcony area (3rd floor). You are also invited to use the meditation room located inside of the library on the 1st floor, as well as Alice and Stuart’s outer office on the 2nd floor (sanctuary level). There is a small staff restroom with a changing table in that space.

Worship and Worship Play: We want children to feel included in worship and believe that they are a vital part of our community of faith. Being in worship together can help children understand God’s love and their identity as children of God. During our worship services, children’s worship bulletins, crayons and books are available in the rear of the Sanctuary. During the sermon time, helpers offer Worship Play for 3-10.

When bulletins are waved during worship at NYAPC, it is a sign of appreciation for the music or other contribution to the service. It is an action, which we learned from our partners church, the First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana, as an alternative to clapping. For the waver, it is an expression of joy in the moment and our connections with sisters and brothers in faith.

If you have been worshiping regularly at NYAPC and do not yet have a permanent name tag or have mislaid yours, please fill out a blank form with your name in the envelopes on either name tag kiosk in the narthex and the church entryway on the first floor. If you are given to the glory of God by Jay Davenport in loving memory of his parents, Jay H. and Lillian Davenport.

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