



# Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church

The Rev. David Aja-Sigmon  
Pastor

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Dear Church family,

The startling light is diffused as it comes through the newly placed protective glass panels on the South Side of our sanctuary. While it is just a temporary step in the long but exciting process of restoration, I am quietly relishing in it (the restored stained glass windows, which will cover the protective glass, are expected to be replaced in February). So much of restoration work is a process of examination and reflection upon what you have and what you need.

In some part, this process of examination and reflection is an essential element in the season of Lent, which will arrive early this year. As we embark upon this 40-day spiritual journey, we are called to prepare ourselves for the sadness of Good Friday as well as the joy of Easter. In doing so, one cannot help but reflect upon how we do and do not live into the vision Jesus has for us.

As the soft light entering through the protective windows causes us to see the sanctuary with a new perspective, let us pray this season that God will grant us the vision to see ourselves and the church in a new way.

In that spirit, I want to encourage all of us this year to make a Lenten commitment. Now I promise that the following was not inspired by our corporate sponsors--Hershey and Nestle (note sarcasm); but maybe this year, instead of giving up chocolate or making a similar sacrifice, perhaps we can explore the possibility of *picking up* a spiritual practice. There are a myriad of options: prayer in different formats, donating time/energy to something to which you feel called, reading a Psalm every morning, worshiping at all the joint Lenten worship services, reconciling with

someone, carving out a Sabbath time or prayerful rest into your busy day/week, memorizing a favorite hymn, etc.

I truly believe that spiritual practices can help us experience Lent at a deeper level and recognize the subtle light of God present to us all.

Peace be with you,

Rev. David Aja-Sigmon

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## Events coming this Spring

\*Bay Ridge Presbyterian Churches are again participating in joint Lenten worship services. All services will begin at 7:30PM

Ash Wednesday Union Church	February 6 8101RidgeBlvd.
Mid-Lenten Worship Bay Ridge United	February 26 636 Bay Ridge Pkwy
Maundy Thursday Ft. Hamilton	March 20 367 94th St
Good Friday Fourth Avenue	March 21 6753 4 <sup>th</sup> Avenue

\*The long awaited book club has finally set a date and chosen a book! On Tuesday evening, March 4<sup>th</sup> come to the church with your book in hand for a lively discussion and good company. What book you say? Well, the first book chosen is Bel Canto by Ann Patchett. Jackie Merhige is willing to be our point person for this first meeting. If you are interested in buying the book, she will take your name and try to get a discount rate at a local book store. Of course, Martie Costello might also be able to help you get it through the Brooklyn Public Library.