



Community Connections

Summer
Issue

June/July/August
2021



A Special Request in Advance of June 13 Service

Please email a photo of yourself with flowers from your garden, a nearby park or... We hope to create a digital collage for the June 13 worship service. Please email Erol Delos Santos esantos@ccny.org by Monday, June 7. Thank you in advance.

On Sunday, June 13, we will celebrate our New Member Welcome. Please contact Valerie Lynch, Community Coordinator, vlynch@ccny.org or 212-683-4988, ext 126 if for details.

Governance Page

Council Recap

by Anna-Lisa Hafgren

Your Council has been meeting monthly since September. Our meetings are now on the first Tuesday of every month, September through June, summer as needed, 6:30-8:00pm, via Zoom. Current elected members are Jen Chard, Chair, Michelle and David Acensio, Patti Paris and Anna-Lisa Hafgren-Willis. Staff attendees are Rev. Chris Long, Esther Rosado, Valerie Lynch, Jil Novenski and Meagan Henry. We are joined by committee/program/group/team chairs/ participants and anyone who is interested in the church's program life.

We continue to focus on what the Council exists for and what its role should be. We review what committees, programs and teams are up to or planning. We also review full slate of members and chairs of all program committees/programs/teams and make suggestions to fill empty spots.

We encourage congregational leadership and involvement. If you have an idea for a program that you would like to lead, please see the online proposal form on the church website on the *Get Involved* page at <https://www.ccnny.org/opportunities-for-everyone>. Programs can be submitted using our online google form <https://forms.gle/ujK3SHTAK4y3zndj8>.

We will be dreaming and planning for our return to in-person events and programs with a Council Retreat this June.

We hope to improve communications. We discussed the need for a return of a member's only page on the website and our Communications Team answered the call! Members will be able to access congregational documents, and login to the database to access their individual giving records and member contact details. You just need to reach out to Valerie for the password info - vlynch@ccny.org. Please visit and check it out. <https://www.ccnny.org/member-access>

We plan to continually review and enhance all-church events. We wish to share and encourage programming.

Quarterly Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 6

12 Noon, following the Sunday Service
zoom.us/join / Meeting 2126834988 / Passcode 10016

As usual, the agenda will include a vote on approving our annual budget. There will also be an update from the PET and our Transition Team on our building redevelopment plans. If you have any questions re your eligibility to vote, please contact Valerie Lynch, Community Coordinator - vlynch@ccny.org or 212-683-4988, ext. 126.



UNGA Program News

We now have multiple UNGA frameworks (and digital formats) designed to host different creative voices for global community and global affairs.

The new UNGA/EQTY framework is organizing to host a progressive global affairs space and reading group for reflection on universal ethics and ideas - looking beyond the prevailing international institutions, doctrines, discourse and status quo.

The new UNGA/LABS framework is organizing work on partnerships with multinational organizations that are governed bottom-up by their own grassroots memberships. Entities in this sector offer real-world democratic infrastructure beyond the state. They deliver deep engagement and power to ordinary people who rely on communities of practice to coordinate their interests and protect their lives. These institutions also utilize federation structures to grow geographically and offer access and relationships to remote member groups. Through our new UNGA/LABS framework, we join in leading resources to this specialized global sector that includes scalable social enterprise and nonprofit advocacy networks.

Would you like to be an envoy with the UU@UN office? More than one envoy from CCNY is possible right away! In a recent meeting of national UU@UN envoys, we learned that CCNY satisfied the annual criteria as a strong UU@UN ally and has been designated a «Sixth Principle Congregation.»

Send Dana an email if you think you might like to get involved in any of these groups or activities, at unga@ccny.org.

Heartbreak in Tigray - by Asfaha Hadera /asfahah@africanservices.org



“I am a helpless human being unable to even help save ONE life in Tigray. My people, the people of Tigray, on their streets and sleeping or dining in their homes are hit and terrorized by gas poisoned bombs thrown on them from fighter jets that belong and owned by the TWO criminals Leaders of Ethiopia and Eritrea. This is happening everyday and night. Aside to such an atrocities they are also dying of hunger. Some of you our friends are on the email list of mine, I know if you put your heart and mind, I know you have it all to make a difference in Tigray, your unknown friends, the people of Tigray are crying for your help. Please reach out to your friends and contacts in the House of Representatives, the Senate, the State Department and the White House.”

View <https://youtu.be/DYiJ4OEPH0M>

Anti-Racism Action Group Invites You

VOTER SUPPRESSION

Who Benefits?
Can America's Bloody Sunday happen again?
Is America's democracy a myth?

Join us in the fight to pass S.R.1 For the People Act and
S.R.4 The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

June 13, 2021
4 PM Eastern

Anti Racism Action Group
Community Church of New York

Voter Suppression – Who Benefits?

Sunday, June 13, 4-6:30 pm on Zoom

Can America's Bloody Sunday Happen Again? Is America's democracy a myth? Join us in the fight to pass SR1 For the Peoples Act and S4 The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

A webinar with guest speaker Kelly Adele Goodman, professor and Ph.D. candidate at Yale University, is presented by Community Church's Anti-Racism Action Committee.

Join us on Zoom - www.zoom.us/join

Meeting ID: 2126834988

Passcode: 10016

Invite Friends! Spread the Word!



The Soap Project

Polly Francini and Jody Leight invite you to join them in taking a simple action to provide a basic creature comfort to women imprisoned in New York.

With family contact restricted because of the pandemic, the women incarcerated at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility have no alternative to the caustic lye soap provided by the prison. The Interfaith Prison Project has a program that distributes gentler soaps to inmates, and it's easy to help. Just mail bars of soap to:

The Church House
Katonah Presbyterian Church
31 Bedford Road
Katonah, NY 10536

Soaps must be in their original individual wrappers, and cannot contain any alcohol. Brands that are accepted for donation include Ivory, Dove, Cetaphil, Lever, Olay, Irish Spring, and Dial. You can also order soap from Target or Amazon. Both will take soap orders, box, and ship directly to the address above.

A Message about Juneteenth 2021

by Rose Crayton

There is a passage in the Christian Bible, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 which begins: "There is a time for everything and a season for everything ". Though we acknowledge the moment in United States history, June 19, 1865, celebrated subsequently and yearly as Juneteenth, this year does not seem like a time to celebrate. It was this day in history that enslaved Texans learned that they had been freed in 1863. This year it is more accurately, a time to weep and a time to struggle for the the heart and the soul of the nation. So we look forward with faith and hope that next year will be a time to continue our celebration of Juneteenth.

DOOLITTLE GRANTS AWARDED FOR 2020

New Organizations

CITIZENS AGAINST RECIDIVISM

(Fiscal Conduit for the Ujima Pan African Media Archives)

In 2019, a group of New York City Black organizers, activists and media professionals agreed to expedite a plan to preserve and make available more than four decades of vital, locally produced historical audio/visual recordings. This initiative became known as the Ujima Pan African Media Archives (UPAMA, pronounced “ooh-pa-ma”) project. A key source for the inspiration for UPAMA was the work of the Sound Gatherers, a collective of videographers who operated from 1985 to 2010. The grant funds will allow UPAMA to purchase the equipment needed to begin the archival process, pay professionals and interns and establish a suitable web presence.

FIRST FRIENDS OF NEW JERSEY AND NEW YORK

Founded in 1997, First Friends of New Jersey and New York’s mission has been to fight for the inherent dignity and humanity of immigrants and asylum seekers in the four (4) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities in northern New Jersey. Today, most of the 750 asylum seekers are people of color from Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and Africa. The grant will help First Friends of New Jersey and New York supply Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to those currently in detention, assist those struggling financially who have recently been released from detention and provide the funding necessary to maintain their advocacy programs.

HUNGER FREE AMERICA

In 2016, The New York City Coalition Against Hunger changed its name to Hunger Free America. Founded in 1983—the same year Helene & BJ’s shelter was founded—its mission originally was to provide food access to all New Yorkers. With nearly one in ten households with children in the NY metropolitan area—more than 500,000 families—saying they sometimes or often do not have enough to eat according to a census survey reported in the New York Times, this crisis demands immediate attention. Today, Hunger Free America is working to end domestic hunger nationwide through a combination of advocacy and direct service. For more information, visit [“hungerfreeamerica.org](http://hungerfreeamerica.org).

NEW YORK CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

Founded in 1951, the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) is the New York State affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Its mission is to defend and promote the fundamental principles and values embodied in the Bill of Rights, the U.S. Constitution and New York State Constitution. The NYCLU programmatic goals are divided into four broad categories: ONE: Protect and Strengthen Democracy including the right to vote, freedom of thought, freedom of inquiry and speech, public education, government transparency and the right to protest. TWO: Protect and Promote Equality. THREE: Engage in the Struggle for Justice. And finally, FOUR: Protect Privacy and Autonomy. There can be no doubt that these four goals demand our support today perhaps more so than any time in our country’s history.

THE WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITY REHABILITATION CENTER

The WORC is a community correction program that offers an alternative to incarceration for women in and around Nassau County, NY. The staff, led by Diane Gaines, offers a holistic approach to providing services with court advocacy for pre-sentence female offenders, educational and vocational services, personal counseling, life-skills workshops and assessment and referrals. The program's amazing ability to help women discover the road to a healthy, happy, high functioning life has been proven again and again by its graduates.

Renewals

Bailey's Café
Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (Ethical Action Committee)
Climate Crisis Policy Center
Maa Sa Akhi Performing Arts Academy
New Amsterdam Boys & Girls Choir
PEN America
Riverside Senior Life Center

Memberships

The Ali Forney Center
Center for Constitutional Rights
Doctors Without Border
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Fortune Society
Interfaith Assembly for Homelessness and Housing
Interfaith Alliance
Murray Hill Neighborhood Association
NAACP Legal Defense & Education Fund
NAACP Empowerment Programs
NYC New Sanctuary Coalition
Queens Pride House
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation



Thank you to Darlene Jeanty and George Garland who will serve as delegates to represent Community Church. One more delegate is needed Please consider applying.

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. GA will be a virtual event again this year due to the pandemic. Everyone is welcome to attend. Scholarships are available. One more delegate is needed to represent Community Church (a stipend will cover the registration fee - \$200). Voting Members are welcome to apply to serve - contact Valerie Lynch, Community Coordinator, for the application or more information. vlynch@ccny.org

GA General Information - [link](#)

Check out some of last year's GA sessions - [2020 GA](#)

Register here - [2021 GA Registration](#)

In Memoriam

We have learned of the passing of three beloveds: two former members and the mother of a long time member.

Bill Rothfarb, husband of Rachel Stone

Marcia Ostwind, wife of Howard Ostwind

Betty Cannon, mother of Kathy Polkabila

Please keep their families and friends in your hearts and thoughts.

Poetry by Members and Friends of Community

Nature

By Dorothy Krasiker

Nature
Spring arrives so
we think of nature
Trees starting to bud
My snowball bush
pushing out sprouts
The tulip and
hyacinth shoots
forcing up from the
still hard earth
we think nature
during spring and summer
even fall with its
crisp colorful foliage
and that autumn aroma
but winter too
is nature
Nature in hibernation
sleeping/
when we sleep
we are still alive
our subconscious mind
still busy
we need the hours
of sleep to
renew and refresh
for the day to come
So too winter
is a living form of nature
for the day to come
So too winter
is a living form of nature.

Dorothy shared this poem at the
Poetry Circle in May, 2021

The Politician

By Nick DiMichele

I am the politician hear me roar.
Words meaning little skyward soar.
A smile on my face as I shake the hand
And get my reward from the money man.
Never mind the common folk
Their needs are a big fat joke.
To stay in office till I croak.
It all comes down to get that vote.

Nick wrote this poem in 1995

Scene From My Window

By Sandy Brooks

The ledge of the office building
hosts the huddled pigeons -
The morning sun warms the spot
as they cuddle close for comfort -
Contact, human or animal
sustains us all.

Sandy is regular contributor at the Poetry
Circle. She wrote this poem in 2020

Members and Friends Out and About

Hello from Lois Ross - Getting Together with Family at Long Last

On April 24 I had a wonderful family gathering in my apartment. My nephew who lives in Connecticut wanted to see me so I was very happy about that. He brought his two children ages 12 and 9 and he also brought his girlfriend who is gorgeous and very talented. She sings and plays the guitar. My nephew lost his wife about a year ago and was bereft having to be both a father and mother to his children. This woman has been keeping company with him since his wife died. My niece and her husband also came to the gathering, and my cousin from New Jersey. I had a total of 8 people including myself. I had to borrow chairs, cutlery, drinking glasses and place mats. I am lucky to have a neighbor who accommodated this need. I supplied the drinks and the snacks and the appetizers. My niece brought Italian food from the west side where she lives. There was a lot left over so she took the food home when she left. It was so nice to have my family with me. I have been feeling lonely since my friend Hal died about a week ago and this gathering cheered me up. Someone once said, "Life is with people" and it is very true.



A Tea Story

by Leslie McKenzie



A simple box of tea has brought more than spice into our home. About one year ago, I brought home a box of Ajiri Kenyon Black Tea with Ginger from Fairway. The box had beckoned to me with its charming art work depicting African women and girls working outdoors.



At home, I was delighted to find that the artwork could easily slip out and be saved. Two art pieces together make a piece just large enough for an honored place in our kitchen. On the back of each piece of art, there is an African proverb. My favorite is «If you think you are too small to make a difference, you haven't spent the night with a mosquito.» The tea is delicious, unusual, hearty and a daily favorite.

Ajiri means "to employ" in Swahili. The goal of the company is to create employment in Kenya where tea is a major industry. Since women tend to reinvest over 90% of their earnings back into families, the company looks to employ them. To create a full cycle of sustainable aid, 100% of net profits go to pay school fees for orphans in Kenya. The company is now sponsoring 29 orphans in school and is employing four different women's groups. Yum!!



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRADUATES IN THE CLASS OF 2021!

Lehna Martine Huie is grateful to MICA – The Maryland Institute of Contemporary Arts for giving her an extraordinary two-year educational experience. She had phenomenal professors who believed in her and encouraged her to rise to her potential. Her peers were creative in diverse ways that widened her understanding of art *writ large*. That the class was able to journey together, despite COVID-19 wreaking havoc re health, classes, and commitment to completion of her graduate studies by almost any legitimate means necessary.

She was graduated with a Master of Fine Arts 2021. Her area of concentration was Multidisciplinary Art and Critical Art Studies. In addition, she received her Certificate for Teaching of Art at the college level. Her studies spanned two MICA institutions: Mount Royal College of Art and the Hoffberger School of Painting.

Lehna is also grateful to her family and friends who journeyed with her throughout grad school. She would not be the young woman who she is today without her church family. She treasures the memories of her Religious Education community; being on the Retreat Planning Committee for our Spring Retreats; art classes, hikes, and campfires there; being a Community Singing Group groupie; visits to The Mountain, GA, especially the pride she felt when carrying our Banner in the Banner Parade; her Dedication Ceremony into Unitarian Universalism as a youth; Cons at Community; and so forth.

Congratulations, Lehna!



Graduation Day



Black Moon

Are You Interested in Becoming a Member of Community?

On Sunday, June 13, we will celebrate our New Member Welcome. You are invited to join us on the journey! Please contact Valerie Lynch, Community Coordinator, vlynch@ccny.org or 212-683-4988, ext 126, to let us know.



SEEDS OF CHANGE

AN ONLINE SPRINGTIME EXHIBIT MAY/JUNE 2021



SEEDS OF CHANGE is Gallery35's current presentation in a series of exciting virtual exhibits on its website with videos as well as online galleries.

For fifteen members of the artists' collective, change has been a springboard for inspiring work with new shades of emotion, style and genre.

Exhibiting Artists:

Cari Clare, Denise Fryburg, Denisha Wright, Ellen Mandelbaum, Jean Messner, Jil Novenski, John Devaney, Juanita Gilmore, Marsha Peruo, Michael Davis, Pat Gericke, Patricia Garbarini, Rick Perez, Susan Harris-Demmet, Virginia Asman

Meet The Artists Reception June 6 at 6-8pm on Zoom.

[Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) / Meeting 2126830006 passcode 10016

View the Preview Video thru June 30 at <https://gallery35nyc.com/on-exhibit-now> with a link to the full exhibit.

NOT JUST US

AN ONLINE SOCIAL JUSTICE EXHIBIT JULY / AUGUST 2021

NOT JUST US is an exhibition of photography by youth ranging in age from 14-18. Works in the show fuse art and activism in an exploration of key concepts found in the eight Unitarian Universalist principles. Justice, equity, dignity and conscience act as a lens through which these young artists tell the story of their world as it is, and as it could be.

The works curated for *NOT JUST US* were created in a 10-week teen photography workshop titled ALL 8, a Community Church Religious Education Program designed by *Jil Novenski*, Director of Religious Education for Children & Youth and Gallery35 member, and led by Community Church's own *Peter J. Robinson, Jr.*, a past member of Gallery35.



View the Exhibition Video beginning July 1 at <https://gallery35nyc.com/on-exhibit-now>.

Children & Youth Page



Teen Photographers Present Photography Exhibit & Artist Talk Monday, June 14, 6 pm (Eastern) on Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87199769940>

On June 14th, seven young photographers (ages 14-18) spanning six different states will share their works produced during a 10-week photography workshop called ALL 8, designed by Jil Novenski, our Director of Religious Education for Children & Youth. The workshop is co- led by Peter J Robinson, Jr, and the premise of the program is that teens use the eight Unitarian Universalist principles as their lens. This event will include an introduction and overview of the program by Jil Novenski and Peter J Robinson, Jr, a screening of the exhibition video, and an open Q&A session with the young photographers themselves. Topics explored in this exhibition include empathy and compassion, liberty, justice, identity and radical inclusion. This event celebrates 10 weeks of unfolding, and turns up the dial on the voices of the future.

Join Us!

Summer Programs Starting Soon

UU Kids Connect Summer Program 2021

Parent Orientation

Wednesday, June 30th at 8:00pm

Contact Jil Novenski - jnovenski@ccny.org

“Remembrance Sundays”

Leonore Tiefer and Janice Marie Johnson

A new Community Church initiative has been launched with great success: Remembrance Sundays. This initiative will celebrate members of our congregation who have passed away - either recently or not so recently. It's a program to combine reminiscence, celebration, and education, as often happens with memorial events.

On January 2, 2021 about 25 members of the congregation participated by Zoom in our first Remembrance Sunday. Our specific focus on that day was Gurcell Henry and we were moved and delighted to hear Jerry Godfrey tell of their long friendship in music and in life. As happens with memorial services, we learned much about both our friend Gurcell and our friend Jerry,

To give a flavor of how these events could go, we briefly remembered the determined energy of Gladys McNatt, the elegance of Dorothy Francis, the musicality of Nancy Hough, the big-heartedness of David Barus, and the moral leadership of Helene Lightbourne. As if we were gathering during coffee hour around little tables in the Assembly Hall, we remembered how Mabel Hill stood behind the Membership Table and how Doris Edwards circulated around with her collection of photographs. We spoke of how Xenia Kellerman loved the seder and how Ros Tiefer led the seder. We mentioned how Jim Apicella inhabited the role of Santa Claus and read the fine print in the treasurer's report. There are so many people to celebrate and so many stories to tell.

On April 11, 2021 we shared memories of Wade Hampton and Mae Tabbanor. Lisa Gluck led the reminiscences of Wade's service to the Shelter, and others added stories from the Board and Buildings and Grounds Committee. Leonore made a little slide show of her numerous photos of Mae in church groups and dressed in her Sunday finery and Fay Bennett Lord led the story-telling. Juanita Gilman had talked about Nepal with Mae on several occasions and we discussed Mae's amazing service there on behalf of WHO, the World Health Organization.

We often use the phrase “church family,” but without saying the names and telling the stories of the family members no longer with us we are omitting a significant part of family life. We need to introduce new congregation members to the forebears who created our community traditions. Moreover, when we raise up the names and stories of former members we may feel a little less frightened of our own inevitable oblivion, thinking, “Well, maybe someone will talk about me down the line.”

Everyone is welcome to attend these “Remembrance Sundays.” You're welcome just to listen or to speak. As in other kinds of families, every story is worthwhile and will remind those attending of other stories. These events knit us together as a church family. Our next event will be July 11, 2021, again on Zoom. Please contact Leonore at ltiefer@mindspring.com if you have someone special in mind to celebrate that day.



Rev. Bruce, Jonathan Hampton, Helene Summa and the late Wade Hampton at Wade's 80th birthday celebration (February, 2017)

Please join us for our offerings! Everyone is invited!
Note: Watch the Weekly Announcements for Summer Schedule Changes

zoom.us/join Meeting ID 2126834988 / Passcode 10016 (unless otherwise noted)

Call in by phone, call: 1-929-436-2866 / Use the same Meeting ID and Password

Sundays

Worship on Zoom @ 11 am - Fellowship Hour follows the service.

Youth & Children's Chapel and Learning Workshops with Jil Novenski @ 9:30-11 am (REFM) Please note new time! Register [here](#) - Contact Jil for more information - jnovenski@ccny.org

Young Adult Group - New Y/A Friends and Visitors Always Welcome

Sunday, 6/13 - 12 noon / Monday, 6/21 - 7:30 pm Contact [Jen Chard](#) for Meeting ID for these sessions.

Mondays

Poetry Circle @3:15 - Bring poems to share, everyone is welcome.

Elder Matters Chat @5:00 - This is a supportive space to be with members and friends discussing age related concerns. Hosted by Esther Rosado

Young Adult Group - Monday, 6/21 - 7:30 pm Contact [Jen Chard](#) for Meeting ID for these sessions.

Teen Photography Workshop- Save Date Event - Photo Show & Artists Talk - 6/14 at 6 pm

Evening Centering with Janice Marie @ 8:00 (through June)

Tuesdays

Breathing Exercises and Guided Meditation with Nafisa @ 6:00

We will begin with a short 10-minute check-in and then proceed with exercises that focus your attention on your breath, the inhale and exhale. Join us as we set aside this designated time to reduce stress and increase calm in our day. We will end with a short-guided meditation. Total time is 30 minutes.

Parent Circles - Hosted by Jil Novenski, DRE and Carrie McEvoy, Intern Minister @ 8:00-9:00 pm

Thursdays

Check-In & Meditation with Rev. Chris @ 12:00

Art with Ellen @ 2:00 - (1st & 3rd) Thurs) For non-artists and artist alike. See things in different ways. Have paper and pencil, markers, crayons, watercolors or charcoal handy.

UU Kids Connect - Summer Edition - Schedule Coming Soon - See page 13

La Hora del Café-Spanish Language Appreciation @ 7:00

Fridays

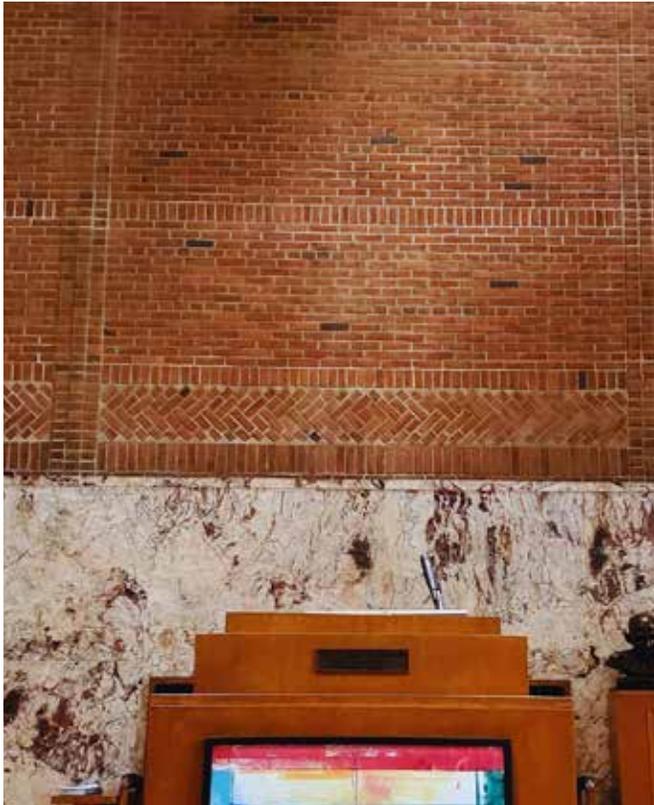
Evening Centering with Janice Marie @ 8:00

Saturdays

Anti-Racism Action Group: Building a Just Community Saturdays @ 12:00

Facilitated by Rose Crayton - (Preregistration is required to participate - vlynch@ccny.org)

Questions? Contact Valerie Lynch, Community Coordinator, at 212-683-4988, ext 126 or vlynch@ccny.org.



When Can We Be
Together Again?

Plan to join us for
Homecoming Sunday!

Sunday
September 12
11 am

In the Hall of Worship!

Looking for Past Sermons? Podcasts?

View them on our new YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/c/ccnyuu

Remember to SUBSCRIBE to our YouTube channel!

Now on our website too! - <https://www.ccny.org/video-sermons>

Do you prefer to read them? Selected sermons are available soon

[Sermons for Readings](#)

Community Connections is published on a seasonal schedule. You are invited to offer articles, photographs, poetry, artwork or for future issues. The deadline for the upcoming Fall issue is Wednesday, August 4.

Please send your submissions, comments, thoughts or suggestions to Valerie Lynch, Community Coordinator, vlynch@ccny.org.

Thank you for reading!