

FEBRUARY 2021 | Volume 55 - Issue 2

SECOND THOUGHTS

Ash Wednesday service and Lenten plans, page 3.



Sharing grace ...

Second Presbyterian Church
www.2ndpreslou.org

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3701 Old Brownsboro Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40207
502.895.3483

www.2ndpreslou.org

Facebook: @secondpresbyterian

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Our Mission

*Sharing the grace of God
with one another and the
world around us.*

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”
(Ephesians 2:8)*

Dear Friends,

Toward the end of a recent online Bible study, I shared with the participants a quotation that has stuck in my memory for over 30 years now and has impacted my thinking about, and practice of, the Christian faith. After the class, one of the participants sent me an email asking for the source of the quote because it had spoken to him powerfully.



The thought came from the late John Leith, a Presbyterian pastor and professor. Regarding the basics of the Christian faith, he writes, “In the New Testament the basic cleavage between human beings is not between rich and poor, the powerful and the oppressed, male and female, the free and the enslaved, but between those who believed they were righteous and those who knew they were sinners...Jesus could only help those who knew they were sinners. Only those who know they are sinners, only those who have received mercy, can show mercy.”

In this time of uncertainty and division, with fear and anger in the hearts of so many, I’ve experienced a longing to get back to basics, to remember the foundation on which I stand as a follower of Jesus. Leith’s words help me do that. The gospel, the “good news” of Jesus Christ begins with the acknowledgement that we are all sinners. That doesn’t mean simply that we do bad things or think bad thoughts but means that to be human is to believe that we are the center of the universe and that others exist to serve our wants and needs. Left to our own devices, we are self-centered and self-serving.

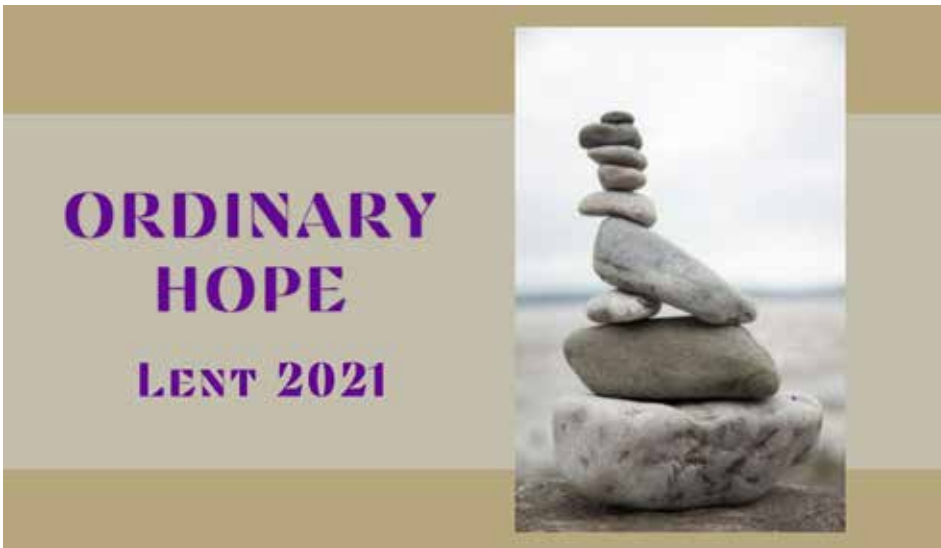
Those who deny that basic condition and so believe they are better than others, more deserving than others, more favored than others are the “righteous” of whom Leith speaks. The righteous believe that any needed healing or saving takes place through their own merits, their own strength and intelligence. When we believe we are the righteous, we can easily fall into intolerance, judgment, indifference to the sufferings of others, and the illusion that our perspective is the only correct one.

When we can see, and admit, that we are sinners, it puts us in the same boat with all people. We are all beggars seeking the bread of grace. We know the mercy of God in Jesus Christ, the undeserved and unearned favor of God, and in gratitude extend that mercy to other sinners like us. In this fractious time we see the fruit of belief in one’s righteousness. As followers of Jesus perhaps the most healing action we can take – for ourselves, for those around us, and for this world God loves dearly – is to confess our sinfulness and so open ourselves to the amazing grace of God in Christ that makes all things new and all things well.

Grace and Peace,
Steve

*Steve Jester is Pastor at
Second Presbyterian Church*

worship



Our season of Lent at Second will be a discipline of discovering the way of Christ in our everyday encounters. Through faith formation, prayer and worship, and the creative expressions of music, poetry and art we will open our senses to living the way of Hope.

Discover ORDINARY HOPE:

Ash Wednesday Worship - Prerecorded service on YouTube Wednesday, February 17

Available at 6 a.m. on Ash Wednesday on YouTube, we celebrate a service that reminds us of our desperate need of the One who gives us life, and the grace we receive at his hand. Through prayers of confession and for sustaining, instrumental and vocal music, the Word proclaimed, and a guided imposition of ashes, we begin our Lenten observance.

Monday Devotions - Each Monday morning, one of our ministry or pastoral staff will share a devotion or prayer practice based on our themes for the week. Included with each devotional will be suggestions for a more hands-on experience for families with children of all ages.

Mid-Week Prayer - Each Wednesday at noon we will meet for a mid-day Prayer Service on Zoom. We will hear scripture and pray together for the needs of our community, the world and ourselves. Links will be sent each week.

Wednesdays Together - For the weeks of Lent, we will again meet for our weekly meal and formation activities for adults and children where we will take a deeper look into the theme of the week. Under guidelines for reopening, this opportunity is limited to 25 participants.

Lenten Recitals @ Noon - A five-week offering on Thursdays beginning March 25 at 12 p.m. Organist Sam Libra has arranged a 30-minute recorded recital to be presented on our YouTube Channel. From the Lenten music for organ from Brahms to Bach, and music for the cello and oboe, and Pergolesi's Stabat Mater, these will be rich times for meditation and inspiration. See page 5 for details.

Sundays of Lent February 21 through March 28

Morning Prayer at 9 a.m. -

Scripture read and proclaimed, Psalms and inspirational texts shared through music. Capacity of 25; registration required. See page 4 for details.

Worship for the Lord's Day at 11 a.m. -

Our livestream service will explore the themes of our Lenten discipline, with the Word proclaimed, and music from our Octet and members of our musical groups, and Sam Libra. Communion is shared in this service when scheduled.

Holy Week and Easter Celebrations -

More details will be released as decisions are made to safe use of building and in-person opportunities.

Updates to Building Closures

Church Building Open to Small Groups February 1

Upon recommendation of our church staff and Re-opening Task Group, and with approval from Session, we began to open our facilities on February 1 to our church's small groups of 25 or fewer. Protocols will need to continue to be closely followed: all participants are to sign in, have their temperature noted, wear masks, and maintain physical distance while in the building. Those who have symptoms consistent with COVID are asked not to participate. For anyone desiring to meet: their committee or small group needs to call Lisa Bickett at 895-3483 or email lbickett@2ndpreslou.org to check the calendar and reserve a space.



Morning Prayer to Be Offered in Chapel Beginning February 7

We are delighted to offer a service of Morning Prayer at 9 a.m. each Sunday beginning February 7. This will be a simple service with prayers, Scripture readings, music, and a shorter sermon. Following the traditional prayer service, we will not be celebrating Communion, but you can join our livestream worship on first Sundays to be able to share in the Table. Following the recommendations of the Task Group and Session, Morning Prayer will be limited to 25 people, and registration will be required. We will follow all protocols for entering the building (outlined above).

How to Register:

An email will go out each Wednesday and a registration link and information will be included.

A waiting list will be started once we have reached capacity for the upcoming Sunday. Those on the waiting list will automatically be signed up for the following week unless otherwise instructed. You will be notified if you are on the waiting list.

ON SUNDAYS:

- Entry will be at Door 6 (Library Door) for sign-in and temperature checks.
- Ushers will be present to direct you to seating.
- Masks will be worn throughout the service.
- Offering baskets will be available at the exit in the Chapel Narthex.

Because the seating is limited each week, we ask that all who are interested in participating be willing to limit their attendance so that all have an opportunity to be present for the service at some point. Thanks for your prayerful consideration.

As we continue to follow the guidelines for in-building capacities, we will continue to offer the 11 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day as a livestream at 11 a.m. on our YouTube Channel 2ndpreslou. We are continually monitoring the recommendations by Centers for Disease Control and state and federal guidelines to be able to open our church and services more fully.

Grace and peace to all the saints of Second Presbyterian Church!

LENTEN RECITALS @ NOON

THURSDAYS ON YOUTUBE 2NDPRESLOU

February 25 - 19th-century organ works by Brahms, Coleridge-Taylor and Smyth

Samuel Libra, organ

The organ bloomed with renewed interest in the 19th century in the hands of eminent composers such as Johannes Brahms. Alongside his devastatingly beautiful chorale preludes, this program features music of English contemporaries, Ethel Smyth and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, including the latter's soulful *Three Impromptus for Organ*.

March 4 - Pieces for oboe and organ by Dupré, Morricone, and others

Jennifer Potochnic, oboe; Samuel Libra, organ

Oboist Jennifer Potochnic of the University of Louisville joins Samuel Libra in a program of music for oboe and organ, including "Gabriel's Oboe" from Ennio Morricone's score for the 1986 film *The Mission*.

March 11 - Pergolesi's Stabat Mater - Meditations on the Passion from the perspective of Mary Emily Yocum Black, soprano; Laura Atkinson, mezzo-soprano; Samuel Libra, harpsichord

One of the more haunting texts of Christian history, the Stabat Mater is a 13th-century meditation on the agony of Christ's mother as she weeps at the foot of his cross. Italian composer Giovanni Battista Pergolesi composed this setting in the 18th century, interweaving two female voices with instrumental accompaniment in a work that both delights and devastates.

March 18 - Works for cello by Bach, and for cello/organ by Boëllmann and Hailstork

Lillian Pettitt, cello; Samuel Libra, organ

Lillian Pettitt, Assistant Principal Cellist of the Louisville Orchestra, performs excerpts from J. S. Bach's incomparably beautiful cello suites. She is joined by organist Samuel Libra in music of 19th-century French composer Léon Boëllmann and Adolphus Hailstork of Old Dominion University in Virginia.

March 25 - Works for organ by J.S. Bach in honor of his birthday

Samuel Libra, organ

No composer is more celebrated for his organ works than J. S. Bach, so we celebrate his birthday (on March 21) with a concert of his works. Second Presbyterian Organist Samuel Libra performs music Bach wrote for the season of Lent, capping it off with the lauded *Passacaglia in C-minor*, BWV 582, a tour de force work written when the composer was just seventeen years old.

Offered as part of *Ordinary Hope: Lent 2021*

upcoming events



RADIANCE OF TWO



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021, 3 P.M.

*Some of Louisville's favorite musical couples
featured in vibrant music for two ...*

S. Prokofiev: *Sonata for Two Violins*

Gabriel Lefkowitz, violin (Concertmaster, Louisville Orchestra)

Julia Noone, violin (Ass't. Concertmaster, Louisville Orchestra)

A. Scarlatti: *Su le sponde del Tebro (Cantata)*

Christina Bouras Recktenwald, soprano

Jim Recktenwald, trumpet (Ass't. Principal, Louisville Orchestra)

Samuel Libra, organ (Organist, Second Presbyterian Church)

José Elizondo: *Danzas Latinoamericanas*

U.S. Premiere of the transcription for two violas

Evan Vicic, viola (Ass't. Principal, Louisville Orchestra)

Laura De St. Croix-Vicic, viola



Special pre-concert presentation by
Daniel Gilliam of WUOL, including an
interview with featured composer
José Elizondo available at 2:45 p.m.

Our highlighted mission is
Women's Global Health Alliance.
To give: womensgca.org and choose "DONATE"



Aired on YouTube 2ndpreslou



Thanks to Our 2020-21 Donors!

We are grateful for the support of our many patrons. These gifts ensure our Series continues to offer inspiring music that glorifies God, and continue to make our day-of-concert offerings to our ministry partners.

Patrons (Contributions as of 01/31/21)

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Paul and Mary Ayers	Holly and Joe Gathright	Tom and Jeannette Pardue
Sandy Bailey	Betty and George Gibbs	Frank and Amy Parker
Jim and Mary Beard	Jodie Goldberg	Vickie and June Prince
Larry and Bonnie Boram	Jean Groskreutz	Margaret Cregor Radford
Ann Buckman	Lee and Jack Hancock	Madge and Gorman Roberts
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Margaret Flowers	Lynn and Karen Ogden	

Gifts in Honor or Memory:

In memory of Winnie Burdette Johnston by John and Cheeky Bahe
 In memory of Niels Ewing by Dixie M. Baird
 In memory of Virginia Keeney by Gary and Virginia Buhrow
 In memory of Bill Duncan by Ed and Mary Glasscock
 In memory of Niels Ewing by Nance Jones
 In memory of Ellie McCandless by David McCandless
 In memory of Carolyn Siler Browning by Jeff and Paula Roberts
 In memory of Ross and Reba Snodderly by Jeff and Paula Roberts
 In memory of Jerry Pence by Larry Sloan
 In memory of Maude Baker by Edith Tidwell
 In memory of Bartow Willingham by Emily Willingham
 In honor of The Octet and Jim Rittenhouse by Guy Younce

The Music Program Endowment Fund; The Judith Brown Music and Mission Fund; The Rosemary Schwartzel Music Fund; The Memorial funds of Tinsley Campbell, Katie Castner, Ellie McCandless, and Ellington Bartow ("Bart") Willingham

If you are interested in donating to the Concert Series, or to any of the funds listed above, please make checks payable to **Second Presbyterian Church** and mark on the memo line either "Concert Series" or "Donation to [name of fund]". You may place it in the offering plates, or send to the attention of Jim Rittenhouse at the church. Or you can give online at 2ndpreslou.org/giving.



WHO ARE THESE "MASKED SINGERS"????

Congratulations to our intrepid **2nd ACT participants** who in the past months have serenaded in Brown Park and sang Christmas Carols to those at Chenoweth Plaza and other locales. *You are sharing grace with all around!*

Kudos to director Kay Dawn McFarland for continuing to bring these wonderful women together. If you would like more info about the group, email or call Susan Langford at tourspluse@aol.com or (502) 897-3789.

Find yourself a place in our music ministry ... Second continues our strong commitment to using our gifts to share the grace of God in Worship and in our Community!

For more info: Jim Rittenhouse, 645-2256 or jrittenhouse@2ndpreslou.org

WEDNESDAYS *Together*

2021 Spring Schedule and Class Offerings

February 17 - March 24

5:30-6:00 p.m. Dinner in the Great Hall

6:00-7:00 p.m. Adult Class, *Life Together* and Children's Class, *Learning Together* (age 3- 5th grade)

The link to a required RSVP will be in Seconds to Go each week

Sunday School

February's Sunday School will be based on the movie "Horton Hears a Who." There are many faith lessons to be discovered in this classic story by Dr. Seuss. We will focus on the idea that all people matter. All people, no matter their size, are loved by God and created in God's image. Please take the time to have a movie night at home with your family. Movie clips for lessons will be taken from the 2008 movie distributed by 20th Century Fox. I also encourage you to read the book together as it may be referenced as well. And it's always good to be able to compare similarities and differences between the book and the movie! Craft bags will be available in their usual spot underneath the portico beginning Sunday, February 7th. Videos will be sent out each Sunday through the Children's newsletter, 2PK, and will be on the Church's website under the resources tab the following week.

Mission of the month

Be on the lookout for ways you can help our mission partners through "Missions of the Month." Each month, 2nd Pres. Kids will help the mission partner chosen each month by the Mission Committee with projects specifically created for kids. February's mission partner is United Crescent Hill Ministries. Be on the lookout for ways you can add your own creativity to help those who visit UCHM's food pantry. More information will come in the 2PK newsletter or contact Lorie Williamson, Director of Children's Ministries, at lwilliamson@2ndpreslou.org.

Wednesdays Together

I am so excited to see everyone again as we begin Wednesdays Together during Lent! It is difficult for children to understand how Lent fits into the church year and even more difficult to understand what it is all about. This year we will explore Lent as a time of finding hope in the ordinary. Ordinary, everyday objects will be used to remind us that hope will always spring forth to those who are willing to open themselves to the love of Christ. Join us as we explore ways of active prayer while ending our evening with games, fun and fellowship!

Summer Dates

Summer programming is in the works! While we are still unclear on logistics, we do know that our Summer camps will be happening in some form or another. Registration for all camp will begin April 1st and can be reached on the Church's website, www.2ndpreslou.org, under the Children's Ministry tab. Dates for the summer camps are as follows:

- Willow Art Camp, June 1-4 & July 26-30
- Smiley Camp, June 14-18 & June 21-25
- VBS/Project Serve, July 12-16

*Lorie Williamson is director of Children's Ministries
at Second Presbyterian Church*



weekday school

Educating the Heart

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” (Aristotle) With all that has happened in 2020 and now the beginning of 2021, social/emotional learning has really proven its worth in education. The way we communicate, work together as a community, care for one another, allow for diversity of thought, speak up for ourselves and others, and understand our feelings and those of others are all essential heart skills. We are seeing the necessity of this interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligence as political unrest, racial tension and the pandemic challenge to our emotions, empathy, unity and discourse, both nationally and locally. The work that our teachers do to encourage social/emotional learning in their classroom communities helps develop their children’s abilities to resolve conflict, solve tough problems, negotiate and compromise, clarify their values, have vulnerable conversations and see themselves as both individuals and members of a group.

The children at Second Presbyterian Church practice being flexible, notice the cause-effect nature of their actions on others and care for one another and their learning environments. They exercise finding and setting their own boundaries and respecting those of others, such as one moment this week when a two-year-old child said, “Stop! I don’t like when you call me ‘silly,’” to his classmate. The other child was unaware of how his words were affecting his peer. He perceived their interaction as fun. Noticing that the hurt child’s message was not getting across, the teacher bent down to the children’s level and pointed, saying, “Look at his face. Look at his eyes and his mouth. He looks upset. He doesn’t like being called ‘silly.’ How can we take care of our friend?” In that simple moment, two young children practiced the acts of reading a person’s face for information, sharing feelings, respecting boundaries and showing kindness.

Including these heart skills in

schools was integral to Maria Montessori’s philosophy, one of our educational influences. She believed education “does not aim at preparing (a child) for school, but for life. Early childhood education is key to the betterment of society.” These daily lessons occur throughout the day when children climb under the taxus bush, engage together in Morning Meeting, create together in the art center and sit around a table at snacktime. These experiences, paired with the intentional guidance by teachers, develop learning communities with a high level of collaboration, affection, resilience, compassion and acceptance, seen from infancy through Kindergarten. Knowing that a classroom is a microcosm of the world, recognizing the dynamic communities that children can accomplish together provides hope that they will take, what they have cultivated at 2nd Pres out into the world. They will be the leaders, decision makers and agents of change in the future. For now, we can be encouraged that humans of any age can dig in and “rumble” (as Brene Brown calls it) to work our way through our present state of disequilibrium by observing the honest and loving interactions of our children.

*Hayley Abell, Director
2nd Pres Weekday School*



Youth Ski Trip



2PY Calendar

2/2:	Open Gym begins, 7-9 p.m.
2/6:	Confirmation Retreat, day trip
2/7:	Confirmation Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. 4-12th grade Sunday School, 12:30 p.m.
2/9:	Open Gym, 7 - 9 p.m.
2/10:	HS Girls Bible Study, the Lyles home 8 p.m.
2/14:	Confirmation Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. 4-12th grade Sunday School, 12:30 p.m.
2/16:	Open Gym, 7 - 9 p.m.
2/17:	Ash Wednesday, 6 a.m. (pre-recorded service)
2/21:	Confirmation Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. Confirmand Parent Class, 9:35 a.m. 4-12th grade Sunday School, 12:30 p.m. 2PY High School Movie Night, 5-7 p.m.
2/23:	Open Gym, 7 -9 p.m.
2/24:	Lunch Bunch, noon
2/28:	Confirmation Sunday School, 9:45a.m. 4-12th grade Sunday School, 12:30 p.m.

We are having a

2PY HIGH SCHOOL

MOVIE NIGHT

February 21, 5-7 P.M.
Fellowship Hall

ALL YOUTH JOIN US FOR A YOUTH DINNER AND A MOVIE NIGHT

Please RSVP by February 19!

adult faith formation

Unless otherwise directed, Zoom links to Adult Studies programs are found in *Seconds to Go*. You may also contact the church office to receive the information, 502-895-3483.

Biblical Studies

The Biblical Studies class covers historical, critical scholarship related to the Bible. In-person class meetings depend upon the church's in-person worship service schedule. Biblical Studies will meet at 10 a.m. any time that there are in-person services. While the church building is closed, Biblical Studies has a remote class session via email each week. For anyone interested in receiving these sessions, whether or not you are a regular class member, please email Dr. Ostling, lingjr@twc.com.

Pathways

Members of the Pathways Class are united in their pursuit of knowledge of biblical, historical and social issues, and all other facets that lead to a balanced Christian life. The class is also a community that has a yearly retreat, a Derby party, and a Christmas get-together along with other social events. We also have a mission component and try hard to provide a hands-on mission opportunity at least four times a year.

The class meets on Zoom each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. with moderator Elizabeth Clay. If interested in joining the class, please email Elizabeth at eclay412@gmail.com.

Reading the Bible

The Reading the Bible Class meets on Zoom each Sunday at 10 a.m. and is moderated by Marty Soards. Please contact Marty Soards at marion.soards@att.net for questions or if you are interested in joining the class.

2nd Sunday

2nd Sunday is for parents of children from birth through teenage years. The class meets on the second Sunday of each month and deals with issues facing young parents trying to raise faithful children in this tumultuous and ever-changing world. Class members share experiences and ideas, to help each other find ways to make God the center of our families.

The class meets on Zoom the second Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. with moderators Lee and Vic Baltzell.

Race Matters

The "Race Matters" study group is held every other Monday at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Morning Joy

Join us Thursday mornings at 9:45 a.m. on Zoom for Morning Joy with Rev. Steve Jester.

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study will continue to meet via Zoom in February at 7 a.m. on Fridays. The schedule for the month is as follows:

Study material: *An Introduction to New Testament Christology* by Raymond E. Brown

- 2/5/21 Pages 80-89 - Chap. 6, Jesus the Son of God.
- 2/12/21 Pages 89-102 - Chap. 6, Jesus the Son of Man.
- 2/19/21 Pages 105-115 - Chap. 7, Christologies of the New Testament.
- 2/26/21 Pages 116-125 - Chap. 8, Christology of Jesus' Public Ministry.

To join via the Zoom link, contact Beth via email, bethh@2ndpreslou.org or find the link and topic in the weekly *Seconds to Go* email.

Sisters in Spirit

In 2021, Sisters in Spirit will continue to meet on the second Tuesday, by Zoom for now. We will finish Max Lucado's *You'll Get Through This: Hope and Help for Turbulent Times* ahead of our original schedule, so please let Ann Fleming know if you have a short study for April and May. To join this study, contact the church, bethh@2ndpreslou.org.

- February 9- Chapters 12 & 13
- March 9- Chapters 14 & 15

America's Unholy Ghosts: A Study

Beginning January 25, Parish Associate Elizabeth Clay has led a group in an examination of the book *America's Unholy Ghosts*, which examines the DNA of the ideologies that shape our nation, ideologies that are as American as apple pie but that too often justify and perpetuate racist ideas and racial inequalities. MLK challenged us to investigate the "ideational roots of race hate" and *Ghosts* does just that by examining a philosophical "trinity"—Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Adam Smith—whose works collectively helped to institutionalize, imagine, and ingrain racist ideologies into the hearts and minds of the American people.

As time passed, America's racial imagination evolved to form people incapable of recognizing their addiction to racist ideas. Thus, *Ghosts* comes to a close with the brilliant faith and politics of Martin Luther King, Jr. who sought to write the conscience of the Prophetic Black Church onto American hearts, minds, and laws. If our nation's racist instincts still haunt our land, so too do our hopes and desires for a faith and politics marked by mercy, justice, and equity—and there is no better guide to that land than the Prophetic Black Church and the one who saw such a land from the mountaintop.

We will meet via Zoom from 7-8:30 p.m. on Monday, February 8 and 22, and March 8 and 22.

Please contact Elizabeth Clay if you are interested in joining us.

Presbyterian Women of Second

Greetings! Since we are still facing the challenges of Covid-19, we will not meet in February. We will continue to pray for one another and for healing and peace in our community and the world.

The Horizons Bible study "Into the Light" by P. Lynn Miller Lesson 6 is "Lament Over the City." In Lamentations 5:1-22, the people are lamenting the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. "Remember, O Lord, what has befallen us," is followed by an accounting of their sorrows. "The joy of our hearts has ceased; our dancing has been turned to mourning, our hearts are sick." In the midst of this turmoil, they turn toward God, "But you, O Lord, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations." And they ask, "Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored; renew our days as of old." The book of Psalms can be seen as a poetry collection about Jerusalem in times of prosperity and in peril. Psalms 84, 46, 48, and 122 are among the good times, while 102 calls on God to remember Zion. In Luke 23:26-31, Jesus tells the women to weep not for Him, but to "weep for yourselves and for your children." The Romans' siege and destruction of Jerusalem will repeat the horrors of the Babylonians. Destruction happens in more ways than physical destruction. Today, our community is faced with destabilization brought about by a global pandemic, as well as by an erosion of trust among people. As we lift up to God the struggles in our midst, let us pray, "God of all places, help us to remember that where your people are, there you are, too: in towns and cities, in villages and hamlets. May we build ourselves into your city, shining your light in the world."

The presbyterianwomen.org website has opportunities to order the Horizons Study book, subscribe to the Horizons Magazine, follow a blog with insights to this study, as well as find information about Presbyterian Women in God's world.

Presbyterian Women of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery will hold its 2021 Annual Spring Gathering "virtually" on Saturday, March 20, 2021, at 10 a.m. The theme will be "For the Beauty of the Earth: Climate Change."

May the love of Christ and the joy of our friendships be with you, now, as always, In Christ.

Amy Parker, Moderator
 Amparker158@hotmail.com
 (502) 897-5076



Presbyterian Women

mission

News From Our Refugee Families



The Amiri Family

Khatul and Raees have shared with our team stories and photos of their family in Afghanistan - the siblings and cousins they left behind. In Khatul's family, for example, her sisters are professional women working in Kabul. They face increasing violence from the Taliban on a daily basis. A recent NYT article "There is no Safe Area" describes the dire conditions there.

Please pray for the safety of family members of refugee families, like the Amiri, who are displaced and still live in war zones.¹

Second continues to help with donated furnishings as needed. Stan delivered a couple of rugs for the apartment to help buffer the sound of running feet—the Amiri's downstairs neighbors were also very appreciative! Beth Haendiges donated a sewing machine so that Khatul can make window coverings and clothing. Thank you, or in Dari, *Tašakor*, Beth!

For the children, we held some play times inside and at their neighborhood playground. The two oldest, Bibi (8) and Anosha (6), have started school online. We were able to provide a Chrome Book for Anosha to replace a faulty JCPS one. Over 40 welcome letters from 2nd families were collected, delivered and opened with much delight. The cards are now displayed on the wall of their apartment in the shape of a heart. Please stay tuned because the Amiri girls are writing us back! We hope to continue this exchange of correspondence and hospitality and to include them in our 2021 commitments.

Ekyochi & Juma

Checking in with Ekyochi on Martin Luther King Day, we learned about her job cleaning properties for Cushman & Wakefield. On weekends, she takes ESL (English as a Second Language) lessons online thanks to the Chrome Book provided by Second, tech support from Kentucky Refugee Ministries and funding through Mission. Our team also collected and delivered Christmas gifts and a stack of welcome cards for Juma (age 3).

Originally from Tanzania, Ekyochi is so grateful for access to resources, education and employment - rights that are denied in her country. The generous support from our congregation has been critical to her successful start.



Please know that during these unsure times, Second is a safe place to belong, to volunteer, and to reach out to others, coming together in faith. Join us! The invitation is open. For donations, email kathy@oyler.net. To be included on our email contact list, email mnpecceu@yahoo.com.

A tireless advocate for refugee families, Chris Ellis, will step back from her leadership this year. It takes 2+ to fill her shoes. Session members Kathy Oyler and Martha Pecceu will co-chair the 2021 team with support from Larry Sloan, Stan DeVogd, Ginny Jones, Macie Nichols, Beverly Wahl, Holly Gathright, Edie Wells, Ricky Case, Susanne Wright, and Nathan Sauter.

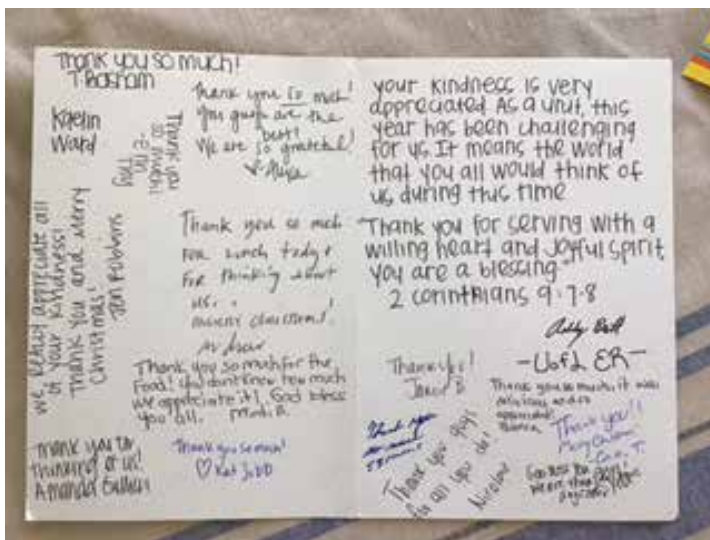
Peace,

The Refugee Team, Mission

1. "'There Is No Safe Area': In Kabul, Fear Has Taken Over" - *The New York Times* ([nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com))

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment | Tanzania | U.S. Agency for International Development ([usaid.gov](https://www.usaid.gov))

Food & PPE Appreciated by UofL Hospital Staff



February Mission of the Month



Below is a list of canned food and hygiene items most needed for the UCHM food pantry. Please drop off under the portico (use any type bag or box) any time Sunday or during office hours through the week.

- Peanut Butter
- Tuna
- Chicken
- Soup
- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Beans
- Rice
- Macaroni and Cheese
- SpaghettiOs
- Cereal/ Oatmeal
- Cooking Oil
- Flour
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Hand Soap/ Dish Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Deodorant
- Body Wash
- Shampoo/ Conditioner
- Toothbrushes/ Toothpaste
- Clorox Wipes/ Baby Wipes

*Cans with pop tabs are preferred since many people using the food pantry do not have a can opener

Join Us for Flower School

Mark your calendars...Flower School 101 is coming to Kentucky! Friday, June 11 at Second Presbyterian Church, benefitting Kilgore Samaritan Counseling Center.

Flower School 101 features a 2-hour lecture and demonstration where Michael will create ten arrangements. Additionally, there is an opportunity for 50 people to attend a 2-hour class where Michael will show you how to create three of your own arrangements.

Michael Gaffney is Executive Director of American School of Flower Design. He is an author of three books including his latest, *American in Paris*. He's a designer, inventor and expert on the art of flower design. He has appeared on The Today Show, NBC, and CBS and is a featured regular on Hallmark Channel. He lectures in museums worldwide on his "Da Vinci code" of floral design. Michael will reveal his secrets to perfect gorgeous flowers every time, how to get fresh flowers to last for weeks in your home, and share inside stories from behind the scenes from Hollywood to Park Avenue. When not designing flowers, Michael is an avid horseman and polo player.

Check out Michael at www.flowerschool101.com and www.MichaelsFlowerGarden.com.



fellowship

SPOT

Second Presbyterian Options Together

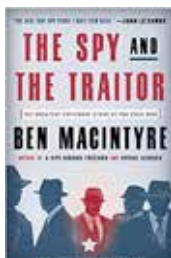
A small group ministry of Second Presbyterian Church

SPOT serves to unite people who share a common interest and deepen their faith in Christ through building relationships and reaching out to others.

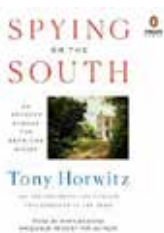


Book Notes

Our Zoom meeting, on Tuesday, February 2, 10:00, will be a discussion of the book *The Spy And The Traitor* by Ben



MacIntyre. This absorbing book reveals the true story of Oleg Gordievsky, a member of the KGB, who began working with MI6, Britain's top intelligence service. He continually rose in prominence and his observations, information and opinions were monumental in Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan's dealings with Soviet leaders. He was important in keeping the two Super Powers from a nuclear mistake, and ultimately helped hasten the end of the Cold War. Thanks to Elizabeth Owen for a great choice.



On Tuesday, March 2, we will have read *Spying On The South - An Odyssey Across The American Divide* by Tony Horwitz, the late Pulitzer Prize winning author. He retraces a journey by Frederick Law Olmstead before the Civil War. Anne Stanley Hoffman selected this outstanding book.

Join us anytime. We faithfully support UCHM food closet. Jean O'Brien, jeanobrien502@gmail.com, (502) 897-0950.



Pilates

Susan Schmidt (502) 523-5934
puremovementlv@gmail.com



Dinner Groups

Jennifer Scott (502) 326-3145
jscott@cabbagepatch.org



2nd Act

2nd Act remains waiting for a time to perform again. Susan will share more if the current situation changes. Susan Langford, toursplus@aol.com or (502) 897-3789.



Prayer Group

Beth Haendiges (502) 895-3483
bethh@2ndpreslou.org



Busy Needles

To learn more about Busy Needles, please contact Mary Ayers, (502) 429-3415 or marywayers@aol.com; or Bev Wahl at (502) 423-9271 or bevwahl41@gmail.com.



Walkers

To learn about the program, please contact Bev Wahl at (502) 423-9271 or bevwahl41@gmail.com. New walkers are encouraged to join.



Paint SPOT

Linda Wood (502) 893-3330
el.wood@twc.com

Join One of Our Grief Groups

Traditionally, when we think of grief, we think of the feelings of loss, anger, and denial we have when someone close to us has died. But grief can come from many other losses - retirement, physical limitations due to aging or medical conditions, divorce, caring for a loved one who is ill, and many others.

We have launched two separate grief groups, one for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one and a separate group for people experiencing grief from life's other losses.

The group focusing on those who have died will meet twice a month for six to eight months. The other will meet monthly. At least in the beginning, we will meet via Zoom.

We will talk about the stages of grief and many of the feelings and thoughts people have as they work through grief. There is no "right" way to grieve. Everyone grieves in their own way, but it can be helpful to share with others who are traveling the same road.

If you are interested in joining either group, contact Elizabeth Clay, (502) 409-3230 or eclay412@gmail.com.



Session Highlights from January 14, 2021

At the January 14, 2021 stated Session meeting held over Zoom:

- Session examined and approved the ordination and installation of the Elders-elect and the Deacons-elect.
- Session received the Clerk's Report, the Minister's Report, the Financial Report and various other monthly Committee Reports;
- Session approved the Annual Statistical Report and the Necrology report which will be submitted to the presbytery;
- The Worship Committee proposed and Session accepted a recommendation allowing communion to be served to members who are home bound or in nursing homes;
- The Finance Committee reported that Second's deficit for 2020 was \$19k. Income for the year was \$141k less than the MAP and expenses were \$120 less than the MAP. Investment accounts working for Second were up approximately 8% over 2019. Cash in the bank is strong. Giving to Mission through the MAP and the COVID-19 fund totaled \$448,966 for the year. Much gratitude to Jeff Roberts who has served as moderator of the Finance Committee for the past several years.
- Session approved a Stewardship recommendation revising the MAP to allocate an additional \$26,300 to Mission in 2021. The deficit in 2021 is projected to be \$62k based upon the current 2021 MAP.
- Session voted not to adopt PCUSA's Matthew 25 initiative finding it more political than religious.
- The Personnel Committee reported on Pastoral Terms of Call and compensation. The Terms of Call will be voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 31.
- The Re-Opening Task Group recommended and Session approved allowing small groups under 25 people to meet at the church beginning on February 1 and permitting a weekly in-person worship service in the Chapel limited to 25 people starting February 7. These policies are subject to change based upon future virus conditions.
- The 2021 Nominating Committee was proposed: Sean Lohman, Jodie Goldberg, Cheeky Bahe, Dick Clay, Laura Edwards, Becky Lyles and Tracy Walker.
- Session approved establishing a Building Insurance Advisory Group which will review church insurance policies annually; and
- Gratitude was expressed to outgoing Session members: Allen Bahe, Darren Parks, Ed McShane, Jeff Roberts, Jennifer Scott, Joy Sautter, Lawrence Palmer-Ball, Monique Tilford and Sharon Owens.
- A copy of the approved Minutes of Session is available in the church office.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Ferguson
Clerk of Session



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Staff

Rev. Steven P. Jester Pastor/Head of Staff
sjester@2ndpreslou.org

Rev. Nathan Sautter Associate Pastor for Community Life
nsautter@2ndpreslou.org

Rev. Jordan Akin Associate Pastor for Youth
jakin@2ndpreslou.org

Jim Rittenhouse Director of Worship and Music Ministries
jrittenhouse@2ndpreslou.org

Lorie Williamson Director of Children's Ministries
lwilliamson@2ndpreslou.org

Hayley Abell Director of Second Presbyterian Weekday School, habell@2ndpreslou.org

Lisa Bickett Pastoral Assistant
lbickett@2ndpreslou.org

Chelsea Beasley Formation Assistant
cbeasley@2ndpreslou.org

Beth Haendiges Community Life Assistant
bethh@2ndpreslou.org

Keith DeCosta Sexton
kdecosta@2ndpreslou.org

Samuel Libra Organist
slibra@2ndpreslou.org

Virginia Fortner Worship & Music Assistant
vfortner@2ndpreslou.org

Jackie Grimley Bookkeeper
jgrimley@2ndpreslou.org

Elizabeth Clay Parish Associate
eclay@2ndpreslou.org

Paula Roberts Organist Emerita

passages

We remember in prayer...

Kitty deVoogd and her family on the death of her mother, Kay Billingham, 1/30/21.

Larry Jones and his family on the death of his mother, Morel Jones, 1/28/21.

Cathy and Tim Martin and their daughter, Lindsay Martin Cook, and their families on the death of Cathy's father, Robert Plank McCrea, and Tim's brother, Dennis Eugene Martin, both on 1/28/21.

Jim Haynes and his family on the death of his sister, Ann Borrett, 1/13/21.

The family of former Pastor Glenn Dorris on the death of his wife, Frances, 1/11/21.

Nancy Thomas, her daughter and son-in-law on the death of his mother, Denise Wong, 1/6/21.

Kitty Keeley and her family on the death of her son, Ches Keeley, 1/4/21.

Nancy Nesbitt and her family on the death of her husband, Chuck Nesbitt, 1/1/21.