

DECEMBER 2020 | Volume 54 - Issue 11

SECOND THOUGHTS

Advent Schedule on page 3.



Sharing grace . . .

Second Presbyterian Church
www.2ndpreslou.org

Contents

Upcoming Events	3
Music.....	4
Worship.....	7
Children.....	8
Youth	8
Weekday School	9
Formation.....	10
Mission	14
Welcome New Members....	17
Fellowship.....	18
FYI.....	19



3701 Old Brownsboro Road

Louisville, Kentucky 40207

502.895.3483

www.2ndpreslou.org

Facebook: @secondpresbyterian

YouTube: @2ndPresLou

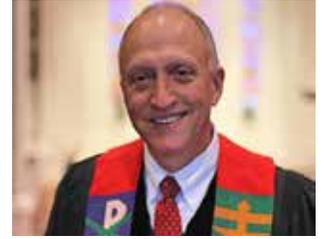
Our Mission

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

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:5)

Dear Friends,

Where do you find hope? What is it that allows you to get out of bed and face the day with a sense of purpose and energy? If today has been a tough one, or one in a long series of tough ones, what convinces you that tomorrow may be better?



We Americans are generally an optimistic people. For several generations, parents have been confident that their children would do better than them. We speak of an economy that has no limits except those set by our ingenuity and hard work. We're told that we can be or do anything we put our minds to. We believe that if we get enough information we can solve any problem, fix whatever is broken. Our hope often is built on dedication, putting in the long hours, and believing in ourselves.

Such character traits certainly have value. Yet if I've learned anything in this past year, it's that hope is a much more elusive rascal, a sneaky thing that shows its face and then may go missing for a while. At least that's how it is for me when I search for hope in my achievements, my competence, my work ethic, or in simply being a decent person. In the face of significant losses, uncertainty, and a powerful foe that turns our lives upside down, trying to find hope in what I can be or I can do is a shaky foundation at best.

Which brings me to Christmas. Christmas isn't about us - the goodness deep within us waiting to burst to the surface, the generosity that needs only to be unleashed, the potential we have to be better. Christmas is about God, a God who chooses to enter fully into our existence, to share the celebrations and the heartaches with us. Christmas is about the God who knows us to our core because in the child of Bethlehem God is one of us. Christmas is about a God who knows us to our core and loves us anyway, loves us just as we are and not some ideal self. Christmas is about a light that shines in any darkness and cannot be extinguished. Christmas is about a gracious, loving presence who is "God with us," who promises never to abandon us, even in the far country of death.

That sounds like real hope to me. What a gift! A blessed Christmas to you all.

Peace,
Steve

*Steve Jester is Pastor at Second
Presbyterian Church*

*Light from
Light*



ADVENT 2020 SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Join us as we celebrate the season of Advent!

Sundays (*November 29, December 6, December 13, December 20*)

11 a.m. Advent Worship will be live-streamed

5 p.m. Advent Vespers Prayer service will be held on Zoom

November 22 – November 29

Advent bags which include devotionals for all ages, advent wreaths and music books to use during worship and vespers will be available for pick-up at the church portico.

Wednesdays (*December 2, December 9, December 16, December 23*)

Pastor Nathan will lead a 4-week Zoom study exploring where light shows up in familiar advent texts.

December 16

Service of Light available at noon on our YouTube page. This traditional longest-night service will remind us where God's light shines in the darkness through scripture and song.

December 24 (*more details to come*)

5 p.m. Candlelight Service

8 p.m. Live-streamed Service

10 p.m. Candlelight Service

music



KALEIDOSCOPE

THANK YOU, SECOND, FOR
TUNING IN!!

If you were not able to join us Sunday,
please access our YouTube channel
2ndpreslou. Enjoy!

Consider a gift to Hildegard House, our
mission spotlight:
hildegardhouse.org



DON'T MISS OUR NEXT CONCERT! SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021, 3 P.M. RADIANCE OF TWO

Louisville's many radiant musical couples will be featured in beautiful chamber music. Among the artists are Gabriel Lefkowitz (Concertmaster/L.O.) and Julia Noone (Assist. Concertmaster/L.O.). A highlight will be the viola transcription of José Elizondo's sumptuous *Otoño en Buenos Aires* performed by Evan Vicie (Assistant Principal Viola/L.O.) and Laura de St. Croix (Vicie). And our own Christina and Jim Recktenwald will be featured performers for a work of Scarlatti.



Spotlight Mission Offering:



Recorded Live Performances will be aired on YouTube: 2ndpreslou

Interested in supporting the Series?
Give online at 2ndpreslou.org/giving



Thanks to Our 2020-21 Donors!

We are grateful for the support of our many patrons- some who have given in memory and honor of those who have loved the music programs of Second Presbyterian or who have given specifically for the 2020-21 Concert Series. These gifts ensure our Series continues to offer inspiring music that glorifies God, and that we can continue to take our day-of-concert offerings to our ministry partners. (Gifts as of 11/23/20)

Patrons

Joe Arterberry	Holly and Joe Gathright	Tom and Jeannette Pardue
Paul and Mary Ayers	Betty and George Gibbs	Frank and Amy Parker
Sandy Bailey	Jodie Goldberg	Vickie and June Prince
Jim and Mary Beard	Jean Groskreutz	Margaret Gregor Radford
Larry and Bonnie Boram	Lee and Jack Hancock	Madge and Gorman Roberts
Ann Buckman	Tom and Judy Hettmansperger	Louise B. Seiler
Tim and Sharon Clark	Woody and Missy Hitt	Carole and Daniel Shomer
Richard and Elizabeth Clay	W. W. and Constance Hobson	Gene and Connie Smith
Edith Courtenay	John and Nancy Hubbard	Martha Spencer
Alice Virginia Dodd	Charlie and Edith Huber	John and Bonnie Stone
David and LeeAnn Dorsey	Steve and Diana Jester	Walt and Odetta Tucker
Gordon and Marilyn Duke	Portia H. Leatherman	Tom and Sandall Tyrell
Martha Dupps	Eric and Susan Lehmann	Beverly S. Wahl
John and Christine Ellis	Jean Maxwell	Edith Wells
Sherry Farson	Linda and James ("Scotty") McArthur	Edward Wilson
Keltie Ferris	Jack Jr. and Susan Moss	Susan and David Wood
Margaret Flowers	Lynn and Karen Ogden	
Joan and LaMar Gaston		

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 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

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.

Austin Memorial Handbells

You cannot stop our Austin Bells from being together! We have moved for a time to Zoom rehearsals at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays.



JUST LOOK AT THESE HAPPY RINGERS!
Come join us!

(Thanks to Bonnie Boram for the screenshot!)

Sanctuary Choir

Our Octet and Choir continue to rehearse each week via Zoom to keep our voices strong, and share in fellowship. Currently, we are working on favorites of Christmas music. If you are interested in joining us, give Jim Rittenhouse a call! 895-3483 x212

*Congrats to
Isabella Recktenwald!*



Isabella placed Second in the Schmidt Vocal Competition - Tennessee Cohort!

Isabella placed Second in the Schmidt Vocal Competition - Tennessee Cohort! Isabella is a junior at duPont Manual YPAS, and sings with CANTUS, our youth choir at Second. WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU! (And so are parents, Jim and Christina!)

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING our video/audio team, please contact Virginia Fortner, Worship and Music Assistant, at vfortner@2ndpreslou.org.

We need many volunteers for rotations each week.

Thanks to Nick Moloney and Chelsea Beasley for helping us!!!

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

In-Person Worship on Hold

Dear Friends,

Session had a called meeting on November 4, 2020, at which they approved a motion giving the Building Re-opening Task Group and the Staff authority to determine the building opening and in person worship schedule in light of Covid-19 cases and government recommendations.

It is a painful decision, but with current Covid-19 positivity levels, in-person worship is canceled until we have been out of the red zone for at least one full week. Until we are able to meet again, we encourage everyone to join us on Sundays at 11 a.m. online for our YouTube live-stream service on 2ndPresLou. See website for details.

Reopening plans will be shared in Seconds to Go and via mail, or call 502-895-3483 to speak to someone on staff. We will, of course, continue indefinitely our live streaming of the 11 a.m. service. And I look forward to sharing worship with you in that format.

The peace of Christ be with you all!

Steve Jester

children

Sunday School – “How Does Your Heart Grow?”

Children’s Sunday School for the season of Advent is based on the movie *The Grinch*. In the beloved book, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Suess, the Grinch learns that the true meaning of the season is not in getting but in giving. In this curriculum, we learn why the Grinch’s heart was “two sizes too small” and how he makes it grow.

The Grinch Sunday School bags will be available for pick-up under the portico of the church on Sunday, November 29 and will continue to be available throughout the week during office hours, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The bags contain materials that relate to a video lesson that will go out each Sunday morning via 2PK and will be posted on the church’s website, 2ndpreslou.org, under the resources tab.



Above, the heart of “The Grinch” grew three times that day.

At right, children enjoy activities provided to go with the movie. Last month, it was “Coco.”

Lorie Williamson is Director of Children’s Ministries at Second Presbyterian Church



youth

You’re invited!
 AN OUTDOOR
 2PY CHRISTMAS PARTY
 AT SECOND PRESBYTERIAN



December 13 at 3 p.m.
 Location: Second Pres Church

Calendar

December

- Dec. 6 Sunday School
- Dec. 7 High School Girls’ Bible Study
- Dec. 13 2PY Christmas Party, 3 p.m.
- Dec. 20 No Sunday School
- Dec. 22 Reunion Open Gym
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services
- Dec. 29 No Sunday School

weekday school

The Importance of Democracy

Four years ago, I had a classroom of kindergartners and first graders who had come in hot and heavy on Election Day 2016. They were decidedly Pro-Hillary or Pro-Trump, mainly depending upon what they had heard at home. During our Morning Meeting, we began to have a conversation about how we could respect each other's different beliefs even when we might not agree with them. We could still love each other and be a strong classroom community even when we strongly disagreed. One of my first graders was Jewish, and he had been told the story of the Hebrew people being enslaved by the Egyptians. He shared how his long-ago ancestors were oppressed and could not live freely because of Pharaoh. They could not choose their work or where to live, and they definitely had no say in their futures. He saw, with startling depth, how lucky we are to live in a country where we can vote and decide our leadership. That right transcends even the results of elections because it is that freedom and how we respect it in one another that endures beyond the cycle of presidents.

In the classroom that day, my co-teacher and I offered an opportunity for our students to run their own election. Theirs was put into a context that was meaningful to them: voting for how to change our Dramatic Play area. They all offered up different ideas for what it could be transformed into next: a veterinarian's office, flower shop, farmer's market, and police station. The students listened to each other explain why they liked the ideas they offered, and then one by one, they stepped into the voting booth we had created for them.

They practiced respecting each other's privacy while in the booth and refrained from attempts at any further persuasion. Before we counted the votes, we had one final discussion. How could we remain respectful if our Dramatic Play area idea won? Or if it lost? What would be kind ways to celebrate or feel disappointed? They offered up suggestions, such as: "If my idea wins, I could do a small cheer (pumping his arm) and feel happy about it. I won't yell, 'You lost!' at someone else"; "If my best friend's idea loses, I could give her a hug"; "If my idea isn't chosen, I might feel a little sad, so I could go to the Peace Corner."

In the end, the Farmer's Market idea received the most votes. Some children were dispirited for a bit, some were very excited, and some didn't seem to mind too much one way or the other. However, they were able to respectfully cheer or feel their disappointment, and after a while, regrouped to make a list of what needed to be done to create a

farmer's market together. When we see classrooms as microcosms of the world, children not only learn academically, but they also have daily opportunities to be active members of dynamic communities who collaborate, communicate, take care of one another and grow as moral people.

At Second Presbyterian Church, we honor democracy in our classrooms by taking children's thinking, questioning and interests seriously as we develop curriculum and encourage students' active participation in explorations, discussions and problem-solving. We also promote healthy classroom communities where we think of how to be understanding, appreciative and helpful toward others. We hope that when they leave our walls, our students feel that their thinking, voices, and actions are important and have been honored and supported by their teachers. We also hope they feel confident using these skills in the next leg of their educational journey and out into the world as citizens.

Best,

Hayley Abell, Director
Second Presbyterian Weekday School



formation

Bringing the Advent Season into Our Homes

Advent Bags

Our Advent bags are one of many ways we are sharing the grace of God during this Advent season. This Advent-in-a-bag is for anyone and everyone who would like to create their own Advent experience at home. The bags include all items needed to create your own Advent wreath, liturgy and hymns to say and sing as the candles are lit each week, a devotional for families with crafting supplies, and a devotional written for adults. It is our hope that in this unusual Advent season, you find solace knowing that you will be lighting the candles of your wreath together in spirit with many others in this congregation.

Advent bags will be available for pick-up at the church November 22 through November 29, 2020.

This Advent-in-a-bag is for anyone and everyone who would like to create their own Advent experience at home.



1 | Presbyterians Today 2020 Advent & Christmas Devotional | Introduction



Advent Litany

There is a moment
 Just before the promise of God -
 The promise of goodness -
 Comes to pass;
 In which we prepare inside ourselves
 Space for the Divine to be born.

The preparation never goes unnoticed;
 It always bears fruit.
 When we can hear the "Voice of one calling in the wilderness,
 We know the "One who is more powerful" is nearby,
 The commonwealth of Christ is at hand,
 The goodness of God is imminent.

May we hear and be that Voice,
 The people who go around preparing the world
 For the coming of Christ.
 Because Christ has been born in us ... Amen

Excerpted ©Fran Pratt franpratt.com Used with permission. <https://bit.ly/35XjY80>

Join us beginning
 December 2,
 Wednesday Nights
 6:30 p.m.

AN ADVENT STUDY OF LIGHT

PASTOR NATHAN WILL
 LEAD A 4 WEEK ZOOM
 STUDY EXPLORING
 WHERE LIGHT SHOWS UP
 IN FAMILIAR ADVENT
 TEXTS."



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.

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.

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.

Race Matters

The Race and Faith Film Discussion Group will continue to meet this fall by Zoom. The class will meet on Zoom on alternate Mondays at 7 p.m.

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 each second Sunday of the month at 10 a.m. with moderators Lee and Vic Baltzell.

Morning Joy

The Bible study Morning Joy meets each Thursday at 9:45 a.m. on Zoom. Steve Jester leads this study, entitled "Word Written, Word Proclaimed." The study will explore the biblical text that is the basis for the following Sunday's sermon. Afterwards, there is a breakout discussion group, Reflections, that meets to discuss the study. Morning Joy will be taking a break during the month of December on December 17, 24, and 31. The Bible study will resume on January 7.

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. During the month of December, Pathways will meet each week except December 27.

Men's Bible Study

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

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

December 4: *An Intro to NT Christology* - pages v-vi, 3-15 - Chapter 1 & 2, What is meant by "Christology"?

December 11: *An Intro to NT Christology* - pages 19-30 - Chapter 3, Cautions About Expectations.

December 18: *An Intro to NT Christology* - pages 31-41 - Chapter 4, Jesus and Ordinary Affairs.

December 25: Holiday - No Class

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

For December, Sisters in Spirit has decided to focus on social interaction and service. For our Zoom evening on December 8, Jeanne Curtis will be sharing a pizza recipe for you to make ahead and enjoy while we decorate Christmas cookies.

We have two service projects writing Christmas card notes of encouragement: to our youth and to the families of the Cabbage Patch. For details, please email info@2ndpreslou.org.

Presbyterian Women of Second

Greetings, Presbyterian Women of Second

Since we are still facing the challenges of CoVid19, we will not be meeting in December. 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 4 is "Lamenting Death". Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 reminds us for everything there is a season: "a time to be born, and a time to die" (v.2). In John 11:28-37, the fully human side of Jesus is revealed when, before raising Lazarus from the dead and upon seeing others weeping, "Jesus wept" (v.35). And in Matthew 5:4 of The Beatitudes, Jesus acknowledges "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Mourning and lamenting share sorrow, suffering, and grief, but in the common elements of lament, we address God, we identify our grief, we affirm our faith in God, we call upon God to act, and we accept the assurance of being heard. As we begin to rejoice in the Advent season and prepare for the coming of Christ, may we remember, with love, those we have lost to this life and, with compassion, those in our midst and all in our world who are suffering during these difficult times. The author offers us a closing prayer, "God of Life, you have done for us what we could not do for ourselves. You have brought freedom

to us when we were captive to death. May we choose to live, forgiven and freed by you through Jesus Christ. Amen."

The presbyterianwomen.org website has opportunities to order the Horizons Study book, subscribe to the Horizons Magazine, view a Webinar introduction to the 2020-21 study by the author, follow a blog with insights to the study, as well as find information about Presbyterian Women in God's world.

Presbyterian Women of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery will hold our 2021 Annual Spring Gathering "virtually" on Saturday, March 20, 2021, at 10:00 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
 Amyparker158@hotmail.com
 (502) 897-5076

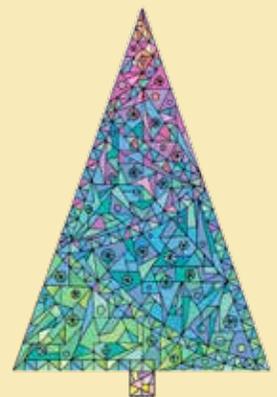


Presbyterian Women

UCHM Christmas Connection

For years, the Presbyterian Women's Bible study groups have supported the Christmas gift program at United Crescent Hill Ministries (UCHM) for families struggling economically. With the current Covid pandemic, they are taking steps to ensure everyone's safety and health. There will be **no shopping** for the children's wish lists this year. Instead, a \$100 VISA gift card and a \$25 Kroger gift card will be given to the parents for each child so they may buy items for their children and groceries. These families are current clients of UCHM. Anyone wishing to help (you don't have to be a woman) is invited to send a check directly to UCHM for any amount. Please make the checks out to UCHM and mark on the "For" line UCHM Christmas Connection. If you have room, you may also indicate "2nd Presbyterian" in that area. Any amount is greatly appreciated and will help make Christmas a little brighter for these children. Send your check to UCHM, 150 State Street, Louisville, KY 40206. Checks should be received by December 4. You can also donate at their website: www.uchmlouky.org We thank you for your continued generosity, especially in these trying times. Our congregation has been most generous in years past and has brought great joy to many families.

Ruth Fitzwater
 Mission Coordinator
 Presbyterian Women



mission

Supporting Our Brothers and Sisters in Costa Rica



Proverbs 17:17 says, "A friend loves at all times and they are there to help when trouble comes." This verse began the Facebook post to the Presbyterian Church in Tres Rios, Costa Rica announcing food packets were available for members of the church and community to come pick up in late September. That friend was 2nd Presbyterian Church, which provided these food packets through giving from the Covid-19 Emergency Mission Fund. These pictures tell the story of how we are sharing God's grace not just locally but around the world. These pictures also remind us that we are not alone, but we are a part of a larger community of faith with brothers and sisters in Christ in Costa Rica. Our sending food was a tangible expression of our love and relationship with our sister church in Tres Rios.



Welcome Our New Refugee Family

Our long awaited Afghani family arrived on Thursday, November 12. They were greeted by Maha Kolko from KRM, Kathy Oyler, Martha Pecceu, and Stan deVoogd. Pictures of the family and greeters at the airport are attached to this article. They were exhausted, but very happy to have arrived safely. Their flights took them from Kabul to Dubai to Chicago and on to Louisville. We are so thankful they made it out of increasing unrest in Afghanistan.

The father is on a Special Immigration Visa (SIV); for years he aided our US military in Afghanistan. Their names are: father Raees Miri (40), mother Katul Amiri (29), daughter Bibi Amiri (8), daughter Anosha Amiri (5), daughter Hanasa Amiri (2). The girls are adorable and will no doubt adapt quickly! They will have been quarantine for two weeks while KRM processes IDs, signs them up for medical coverage and checkups, gets temporary food stamps, etc. Second pays for 3 month's rent as part of our official sponsorship.

Second has already rushed to help the family with clothing, kitchen and household items, and pantry items not already provided by KRM. Pathways Class and other volunteers have generously filled bags with donations for the family, in addition to cash gifts that provide Kroger and Walmart gift cards. Watch for information in Seconds to Go for ongoing needs. Maha is the family caseworker and is always our best mentor and friend when we co-sponsor! She has been our inspirational guide since we began working with KRM in 2018.

Please welcome this family when we all have a chance to meet face to face. We are honored to welcome the stranger (Genesis 18: 1-8). The Tent of Abraham is a story that keeps on giving. As we celebrate Advent this year, we can celebrate the joy of welcoming new friends as we welcome Jesus Christ.

Refugee Team, Mission Committee



A Note from the Healing Place

A thank you from the "Peer Mentors" at The Healing Place for our emergency help in replacing badly needed mattresses to accommodate the homeless population. With Covid, many of the smaller shelters had to temporarily close so The Healing Place stepped in to take care of their needs.



The
Cabbage Patch
Settlement House, Inc.

The Cabbage Patch Christmas Gift Basket Project

Thank you to all who have already made cards and given donations!

Grandma doesn't need another scarf and Granddaddy won't be disappointed that he didn't get that tie....take the stress out of your holiday gift giving and make a donation in your loved one's honor.

Each time a donation is made in honor or memory of a loved one, \$10 or more per honorarium requested, a Christmas card designed by the children of The Cabbage Patch with their own artwork can be sent to the person/family informing them of your generosity.

We also still need Christmas cards or notes to the families!

MAIL your Christmas cards and notes of encouragement to Jennifer Scott by December 9, The Cabbage Patch 1413 South Sixth Street, Louisville, KY 40208 and mark with ATT: Christmas Basket Project.



welcome new members

The following members have joined Second Presbyterian Church in the fall of 2020. Please welcome them into the church and welcome them into our hearts.

Ronald (Ronnie) & Sandra (Sunny) Seale

Ronnie and Sunny relocated from Herndon, Virginia to Louisville to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Their daughter, Stephanie Fellon, is a member of 2nd Presbyterian Church along with her husband, Drew, and their daughter, Morgan. Moving to Louisville has also made it possible to easily visit their son, Michael, who lives in Nashville with his wife and 5-month-old son. They are both retired and have been married for almost 48 years. Ronnie and Sunny were both very engaged in the activities of their previous church. Ronnie taught adult Sunday school for many years at Floris United Methodist Church and Disciple Bible Study at Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church. He is interested in becoming involved in one or more ministries of our church as God directs. Sunny volunteered in her church's sponsored day camp for low income elementary school children and also participated in small group Bible studies. She is most interested in our Sunday school groups and Presbyterian Women.

Sunny and Ronnie Seale will be joining Second Presbyterian Church by Certificate of Transfer from Floris United Methodist Church.



Anna Louise Simon

Anna is seeking membership at Second Presbyterian Church. She is the fiancé of Ivy Stevens, who recently transferred his membership this past summer. Anna was raised Catholic and has attended St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Louisville. She is a pharmaceutical sales representative for Eli Lilly and Company. Anna and Ivy are planning to be married at 2nd Pres in 2021 and make 2nd Pres their church home. She is interested in getting connected to other young adult couples in our congregation.

Anna Louise Simon will be joining Second Presbyterian Church by Reaffirmation of Faith.



PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering

November 29 - December 20, 2020

Christmas Joy

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

While we won't have in-person worship, you can still make a Christmas Joy Offering by requesting an envelope or going to the PC USA Christmas Joy Offering web page:

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/>

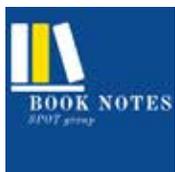
fellowship

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

Book Notes will not meet in December. Jean O'Brien will provide a list for 2021 later in the month. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

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



Busy Needles

Busy Needles members are gearing up for their next project!

To get directions and supplies for this new project, please contact Mary Ayers, (502) 429-3415 or marywayers@aol.com; or Bev Wahl at (502) 423-9271 or bevwahl41@gmail.com.



Pilates

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



Paint SPOT

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



Dinner Groups

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



2nd Act

2nd Act remains to wait 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



Walkers

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

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 November 12, 2020

At the November 12, 2020 stated Session meeting held over Zoom:

- Session received the Clerk's Report, the Minister's Report, the Financial Report and various other monthly Committee Reports;
- Session was introduced to Samuel Asiedu, our new seminary field education student who is a Presbyterian pastor from Ghana;
- The Trustees reported that Second's investment funds have somewhat rebounded since the March market drop related to COVID. Gratitude was expressed to Bill McDowell and Laura Cromer as their terms as Trustees end. Miriam Ballert was welcomed as the new moderator of the Trustees;
- The Finance Committee reported that Second continues to operate at a deficit in November and may run a deficit for the year. As of the Session meeting, over \$250,000 of 2020 pledges remain outstanding, and the continued fulfillment of pledges and other giving is crucial to finishing the year in a good financial position.
- The 2019 Church Audit was presented to and approved by Session. Gratitude to Charles Bond, Jackie Grimley, Jeff Roberts and Second's external auditors for their hard work on Second's finances.
- The Mission Committee gave Session an introduction to PCUSA's Matthew 25 mission program and also reported on the arrival of our new refugee family from Afghanistan.
- The Outreach Committee presented and Session approved three new members who have recently completed the New Member Orientation class.
- The 2020 Church Nominating Committee presented the slate of new Elders, Youth Elders, Deacons and Trustees. This slate was then approved at the November 15 Called Congregational Meeting.
- The Weekday School/Church Task Group reported that they have completed their work reviewing the legal relationship between the two entities, the insurance program, the employee handbooks and the working relationship between the church and the school;
- A review of Second's insurance program was received and approved by Session.
- Second's policy on Committee Term Limits and Rotation was reviewed and Session members were reminded to make sure the committees are in compliance.

-
- Session also had a called meeting on November 4, 2020 at which they approved a motion giving the Building Re-opening Task Group and the Staff authority to determine the building opening and in-person worship schedule in light of COVID cases and government recommendations

A copy of the approved Minutes of Session is available in the church office.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Ferguson,
Clerk of Session



Periodicals
Postage Paid at
Louisville, KY

Second Thoughts (UPS 488-060). Published Monthly.
Postmaster, send address changes to:
Second Thoughts, c/o Second Presbyterian Church
3701 Old Brownsboro Rd
Louisville, KY 40207

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
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
Hayley Abell Director of Second Presbyterian Weekday
School, habell@2ndpreslou.org
Elizabeth Clay Parish Associate
eclay@2ndpreslou.org
Jackie Grimley Bookkeeper
jgrimley@2ndpreslou.org
Virginia Fortner Worship & Music Assistant
vfortner@2ndpreslou.org
Guy Younce Interim Organist
Paula Roberts Organist Emerita

passages

We remember in prayer...

Nancy Thomas and her family on the death of Nancy's brother-in-law, Frank Ray Myers, 11/22/20.

Georgia and Ruth Fitzwater on the death of Anne Marie Fitzwater, 11/9/20.

Ellen Rudd Prohaska and her family on the death of her spouse, Carl Prohaska, 11/8/20.

The family of former member Hal Hughes on his death, 10/27/2020.