



Second Press

Volume 40 Issue 4 April 2023

Dear Church Family,



After lots of years of writing this front cover of *Second Press*, which I have used to share important news, offer faithful nourishment, encourage your reflections and discipleship, I come to this final column.

First, though I hope you will hear me say this again and often in more personal ways in the

coming weeks, please know my deep gratitude to you, to this vibrant church family. It has been among the highest honors of my life to serve as your Pastor and to journey with you in worship, faith, and life across the past years. As the Apostle Paul says, *"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers..."* (Philippians 1:3-4) You have inspired my faith, deepened my trust in God, and shown me courage and devotion in God's work. I will never forget our time in ministry and striving to love and serve God. Ginger and I convey our deepest and sincere thanks to you, and to God's goodness and grace for linking us in life and ministry.

Second, many of you have asked about emerging plans for the church in the coming months. As you might know, this approaching transition period to find a new Pastor takes time, energy, prayers, and care at many levels. Here are some of the steps:

- My last Sunday with you as Pastor will be April 30. We look forward to a joyful celebration of our common life and ministry together.
- May 7 – the Presbytery of the James requests a visit during Sunday worship; one of the new leaders of Presbytery will preach in worship and lead the service along with Kate, Hannah, Kelley, and other familiar faces.
- The Personnel Council, led by Jon Heckel, has a team in place working hard to find short-term leadership for the coming months. We are fortunate to have some people ready and willing to step up in some focused ways, like pastoral care and administration.

Roger Gench and Mary Jane Winter will assume some additional duties to help maintain the health and vitality of the church and in support of Kate and other staff members. This group is exploring other people and possibilities too. The Session will convey more details soon about these decisions. Stay tuned.

- As soon as possible, the church will pursue several important steps: a) take this interim season to do some intentional mission studies and evaluations; b) request the Presbytery Committee on Ministry for permission to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee, which is elected at a Congregational Meeting which will be called when approved; and c) do all things to facilitate and expedite the above process toward the election of a new Pastor.

While these things take time, a primary goal of the Session, the Personnel Council, and all involved in this process is to move through this next season expeditiously, with care, for the health and vitality of the church.

As this church moves through this process and toward a bright future worshipping and serving God, you have my deep affection, prayers, and care. I step away full of gratitude, trusting in God's goodness, and confident about the leadership and membership of this great gathering of God's people.

I hope for a great month of April together, in worship and service, with ample opportunities to connect with you and rejoice in God's grace so much in our midst.

May God bless us and keep us all.

Most sincerely,

Adult Christian Faith Formation ~ 9:30-10:30am

Dining Room Class

Jesus ~ Sincere Questions/Sincere Faith ~ led by Alex Evans

- April 2** Palm Sunday ~ Palm Parade to St. Paul's Episcopal (no church school)
- April 9** "The third day he rose again from the dead" - Easter!
- April 16** "Ascended, Judge, Rules the Quick and the Dead" - what does that mean?
- April 23** "Holy Ghost and Holy Catholic Church" - what does that mean?
- April 30** "Communion of Saints, Resurrection, and Life Everlasting"

Faith and Literature Class

The adult Sunday morning Faith and Literature class is discussing *The 60s: The Story of A Decade*—essays, poetry, and fiction from the New Yorker magazine.

Authors we'll be reading in the next couple of months include James Baldwin, Truman Capote, John McPhee, Sylvia Plath, John Cheever, John Updike, Pauline Kael, Hannah Arendt, and many others. Weekly readings range from 18-57 pages, with class members taking turns leading our discussions.

We welcome newcomers to our class at any time. We meet both in person and via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. Contact Dan Ream at danream@gmail.com for the zoom link or with any questions.



Bible Class with Franklin Reding

We will continue with the same topic: the Old Testament Roots and Paul's Theology. For more information, contact Franklin at franklinr@presbyteryofthejames.org.

The Studio Class ~ April 16 through May 21

Join Hannah Garrity in The Studio (Suite 301 Conference Room) to help create a new set of banners to hang during our upcoming season of ordinary time. We will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am, April 16-May 21. Just as God's presence in our daily lives can emerge in the subtleties, the bible stories of the ordinary time season will emerge in the details. The banners will be double-layered with paper lace over bible pages. As in ancient art, we will represent the ever presence of God with gold in the background of the piece. Sometimes the children and the youth will work on them, too! Weekly instructions will be posted on the project so you know what's needed.

Bring your artistic energy! Bring joy and be a part of it!



Children's Christian Faith Formation

The children will continue their global musical travel learning music from around the world with Ms. Laura in choir practice!

They will continue in their dynamic and interactive studies of the gospel text for the week in Sunday school.



Youth Sunday, April 16!

The youth are excited to lead worship on April 16th. Knox Dendy will be preaching from the Gospel of Matthew. Join us for worship and prayers, hymns and inspiration from our youth.

We continue to meet on Sunday mornings, sharing what's happening and learning from the Bible stories shared.



Holy Week



April 2 ~ Palm Parade to St. Paul's

Meet at our church at **9:30 am**. We will get our palm branches and process to St. Paul's, joining our Downtown Community Ministry partners for this festive celebration at **10:00 am**. We will be back in our Sanctuary for Palm/Passion Sunday worship at **11:00 am**.



April 6 ~ Maundy Thursday

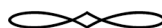
7:00 pm Worship in the Chapel with Communion



April 9 ~ Easter Day

9:30 am Church School

11:00 am Worship



Easter on Parade

Gather with your Second Church family for the return of this Richmond tradition!

On Easter Day, the Deacons' Fellowship Team will gather **by the Branch Museum** on the corner of N. Davis Avenue and Monument Avenue at **3:00 pm** to meet up and walk together.

All ages are welcome for this festive celebration!

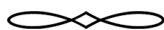


Celebrating Alex and Ginger!

Join us for worship **Sunday, April 30** (Alex's last day) and then a special celebration in the chapel! We will give thanks for the many wonderful years of ministry and leadership of Alex and Ginger.

Gifts will be shared, and words of gratitude will be offered.

You won't want to miss this special day to wish them both Godspeed in their retirement!



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering: Every Gift Changes Lives

In a world of natural disaster, hunger, and poverty, your gift to the **One Great Hour of Sharing** changes lives and brings hope and healing in the name of the risen Christ.

Received on **Easter Day** (April 9), each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promotes development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP), and assists in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

This special offering benefits so many lives: helping those in Ukraine with food assistance; those in Guatemala with an SDOP grant; those in Malawi with disaster assistance. Every gift makes a difference in the life of someone!

Second Presbyterian Church has enthusiastically supported the OGHS of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in the past, and encourages the generosity of every member today. Last year Second Pres members gave **\$7,555**. We can do so again—and more.

We are richly blessed. Together we can make a difference in a hurting world.



How to give?

1. Write a **check**. Send to the church or put it in the offering plate, payable to Second, with OGHS in the memo line, or use the envelope provided in the Easter bulletin.
2. Give **online** at the church website and select "special mission offering."



Deacons' Corner



The deacons have put together holiday treat bags for the children, who brighten all our lives here at Second. We will be distributing the bags after worship in the weeks leading up to Easter. Please be sure to pick one up for your child.



We are so very grateful for the years of dedication, leadership, and love provided to us by Ginger and Alex Evans. As the church moves closer to the interim process, we recognize that many in our congregation may be feeling great emotion. The deacons want to be a liaison and source of support during the time of transition. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Lectio Divina

All are invited to join us for the practice of Lectio Divina. Join us weekly on Mondays from 1:00-2:00 pm on Zoom. We read a passage from scripture three times, with periods of silence and reflection following each reading. We close our time together with conversation and prayer. **All ages and stages of faith are welcome!** Join us for this time to focus our attention on the living Word and to tune our hearts with God's love. Join Lectio Divina on Mondays at 1:00 pm by clicking [this link](#)

(Meeting ID: 951 6829 7558 // Passcode: 067514).

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95168297558?pwd=UWxUZnFOQTQ3WVZ5SnNpOWVQb3dkZz09>





A New Exhibit ~ *Anything But Ordinary*

Calling all artists! Are you a writer, an artist, an illustrator? Are you a poet, photographer? Do you create three-dimensional works?

Our theme for this Ordinary Time art show (“ordinary time” is the liturgical season after Pentecost, and before Advent) is *Anything But Ordinary*. This show will feature art work from the congregation and will be hung and installed in the **Second Pres Gallery** (which is the hallway that you walk through as you enter from the parking deck).

As you consider what to contribute to the show, think about this: Where, in your art and artwork, are you most aware of the stunning beauty embedded in our ordinary lives and surroundings? How does God's ever presence emerge in your piece? We know that the minutiae of the everyday can feel mundane at times, but the many details of life can also hold beauty, comfort, and rhythm. Perhaps you have works from artistic practices that sustained you through the pandemic years. Perhaps you have experienced a connection with God in the creative process itself.

Pick up a submission form (available on the gallery hall table, or use the PDF link here ([.pdf linked here](#)) to attach to the back of your framed/mounted submission. On this form we would like you to include a brief artist's statement/meditation on your work, and how it relates to the theme of *Anything But Ordinary*. (Maximum of three works per artist, please.) Submit artwork by April 30; bring to The Studio, located on the third floor (Suite 301 Conference Room). Lean your works on wall left of the door.

Please contact Hannah Garrity with any questions at hgarrity@2presrichmond.org.

Women's Conference at Montreat ~ August 11-13

All women of the church family (and friends and relatives) are invited to join Kate Fiedler and Hannah Garrity in Montreat for the Women's Connection conference, **August 11-13**. The keynoter is Kate Bowler (a wonderful writer and professor at Duke Divinity), and the preacher is Kathryn Johnston.



Register as a commuter with Montreat (<https://montreat.org/forms/wc-2023-registration>), and let Kate know, so you'll be included in our bed count for our rental house.

Porch time, prayer time, and plenty of laughter are guaranteed. Join us in the mountains!

Support Campus Ministry

The Pace Center (our partner in VCU campus ministry) is accepting donations for snacks and non-perishable pantry items. Each week dozens of students gather at Pace Center for various events. Some even consider Pace their home away from home. Help us make our space even more welcoming by donating snacks. Snack ideas from students: fruit snacks, individual bags of chips, granola bars, apples, bananas, clementines (such as Halos or Cuties), Oreos, homemade baked goods (brownies, snickerdoodles, chocolate chip cookies, sugar-frosted cookies), etc. While healthy snacks are always appreciated, the students love a good balance!

Quantity: Just provide what you can—every donation is appreciated

Questions: Contact Kelley Connelly directly kconnelly@2presrichmond.org

You can sign up and learn more using the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054babaf29a4fb6-snack#/>

Earth Day Call for Tupperware!

The Pace Center (VCU campus ministry) is requesting new and used Tupperware. Pace provides food to students and in order to honor our commitment to caring for creation, refrains from using disposable containers. If you are interested in donating new or used Tupperware items, please contact Kelley directly at kconnelly@2presrichmond.org

A note of thanks from The Pace Center ~ our partner in campus ministry

Dear friends ~ The Pace Center was recently selected to receive a Traditioned Innovation Award from Leadership Education at Duke Divinity School. These awards recognize initiatives that engage in experiments to transform communities by living out the convictions of an ancient faith in the current challenging circumstances.

We at the Pace Center are very proud to receive this honor, and want to specifically thank the congregation at Second Presbyterian Church. You believed in the mission of The Pace Center and helped fund us so that we could continue our ministry. It is because of your support that we have been able to serve the VCU community in new and exciting ways.



Thanks again! ~ *The Pace Center Staff*

Read more about the impact Pace has had in this recent article published by Duke Divinity School: <https://leadership.divinity.duke.edu/what-we-offer/grants/traditioned-innovation-awards/>

Springtime with the RVA Street Singers ~ learn how to get involved



The RVA Street Singers are back in the building!

RVA Street Singers is an inclusive choral music experience that gives a public voice to individuals impacted by homelessness in Richmond by fostering community, acceptance, self-worth, well-being, and creativity in a safe environment. This musical group is made up of participants from our Walk-In lunch program, church members, and VCU students/faculty.

Interested in supporting the RVA street singers? Consider donating \$5 Kroger gift cards, help organize music, or join in the singing! Contact Kelley at kconnelly@2presrichmond.org for more information.

Mission and Advocacy Council collection for April 2023 ~ Sacred Heart Food Pantry

Throughout the month of April, the Mission and Advocacy council will be collecting food items for the pantry at Sacred Heart, one of our urban mission partners. The Sacred Heart Center connects Latino families with tools to thrive and flourish.

These tools include a continuum of educational opportunities for adults; innovative programs for youth and children; and strategic partnerships to meet community needs. The Sacred Heart community continues to experience extreme food insecurity, and their food pantry is serving 300-400 individuals each week. Here is a list of items we will be collecting throughout the month of April:

Corn and flour tortillas	Canned fruit
Dried or canned beans	Powdered milk
Rice	Cereal
Baby formula	Crackers
Snacks for small children	Peanut butter
Canned vegetables	Tea & coffee
Tuna	Sugar
	Cooking oils



Look for the appropriate bins outside of the Sanctuary throughout the month of April.

Thank you for your support and generosity!

Literary Circle

Tuesday, April 11 at 7:00 pm

Literary Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 11, at 7:00 pm at the home of Collyn Hawn, 250 Finial Avenue, Unit 2c. Collyn will lead the discussion of Sue Monk Kidd's *The Book of Longings*.

Please contact Carolyn Brandt (288-2511, crbrandt1412@gmail.com) or Page Wagner (323-7038, pagewagner@icloud.com) for more information.



Day Book Group

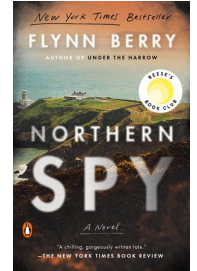
Wednesday, April 19 at 10:00 am

The Day Book Group will meet at 10:00 am on Wednesday, April 19, in Room 308 Virginia Building and by Zoom.

The book for discussion is

Northern Spy by Flynn Berry

All are welcome.



On Sunday, April 2 & 16, we will be offering face-to-face sales of Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee and tea after worship. Buy it for yourself, as a gift, or for our church's Shower Ministry. We sell this coffee to support living wages for small farmers in Central and South America, selling it at our cost of \$8 per bag of coffee or \$4 per box of 20 tea bags. Contact Dan Ream at danream@gmail.com with questions or to arrange free home delivery to your doorstep.



Please join AFOI in celebrating 45 years of service at AFOI's 45th Follies & Fun!

FEATURING SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY...

[Micah "Bam-Bamm" White](#), Comedian

[Jonathan Austin](#), Juggler & Magician

WHEN? Wednesday, April 19th from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

WHERE? [Triple Crossing Brewing - Fulton](#)

WHO? AFOI's supporters, like you!

WHY? To gather our wonderful supporters together to celebrate AFOI's 45 years of service and raise money for AFOI's programs and services!

WHAT? A 45th anniversary celebration, featuring fun performances, awards, a silent auction, a raffle, live music, specialty pizzas & snacks, craft beer, games, and more!

HOW? [Tickets are on sale now](#). Please visit our [ticketing website](#) to purchase. Tickets are **\$45 for 45 years** and include all of the above, including an entry into the door prize raffle, except beverages. Beer, wine, and non-alcoholic drinks will be available to purchase through the venue. If you would like to purchase your ticket with check or cash, please contact AFOI at <https://afoi.org/contact>

Special 
MUSIC

Sunday, April 23
during Worship

LUX:

The Dawn from on High
by Dan Forrest

Presented by the Second
Presbyterian Choir
with Chamber Orchestra



Second Presbyterian Church
OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

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April Preachers

April 2	Kate Fiedler
April 9	Alex Evans
April 16	Youth Sunday
April 23	Special Music
April 30	Alex Evans

Inquirer's Class ~ Sunday, April 2

After Worship in Atrium Conference Room

**Speak with Alex Evans or Kate Fiedler
if interested!**