



I love the fact that we begin worship every Sunday by pouring water into our baptismal font and remember our baptism, for baptism can significantly orient us in this transitional period. Indeed, this practice can be a map for us that can direct our journey together in this critical period in the church's life. Over the years, I've learned a great deal about baptism from theologian Gordon Lathrop.

In his book, *Holy Ground: A Liturgical Cosmology*, Lathrop observes that in Mark's gospel, when Jesus emerges from the waters of his baptism (1:10-11), something happens that remaps the world, that entails nothing short of what Lathrop calls a remapping of the cosmos. For Mark tells us that as he came up out of the water, he saw the heavens being "ripped apart" and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him—identifying and empowering Jesus as one who maps the very trajectory of God in the world and as one in whom God is decisively at work to reclaim and restore God's good creation.

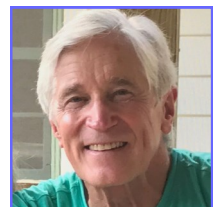
It is important to note that the heavens do not simply "open," for something that opens can close. Mark tells us that the heavens were ripped apart—that reality was irreparably altered as a fissure in the heavens appeared—a permanent elimination of the boundary between heaven and earth. Gordon Lathrop speaks of it as the hole in the cosmic map of the universe.

And as Jesus' baptism prefigures our own baptism, it is this hole in the map of the universe that orients our lives. This means that for us at Second Presbyterian, the center of our life together is not so much a neighborhood or a geographical location like the capital, or a political or financial center. The center of the Second Presbyterian map is the baptismal font, over which there is a symbolic hole in the heavens. This is where we hear a voice that tells us the truth about ourselves, claiming us as God's own beloved children, and where God's own Spirit claims us and anoints us for service. The hole in the cosmic map of the universe also means that God is on the loose in this world in Jesus' ministry and in our own discipleship to him. God's transforming power is on the loose in this world, challenging everything that distorts and disfigures human life and God's good creation, and empowering us to lend our energies to God's project of healing what is broken.

The coming months will be anything but ordinary. We will be discerning what God has in mind for us through the guidance of the Session, the Staff and Interim Team, the Presbytery of the James, the Presbyterian Church (USA) call system.

But let us not forget that our basic orientation—our map—for the time ahead is our baptismal font over which there is a symbolic hole in the heavens that reminds us that God has called us and is forming us to be the body of Christ on this corner of RVA and the world. Thanks be to God.

Roger



Roger Gench,
Transitional
Team Pastor

Summer Lecture Series | June 4, 11, and 18

11:00 am (following 10:00 am Worship)



Sunday, June 4 Lucretia McCulley and Dan Ream | *Presbyterian Peacemaking Program*

Join Lucretia McCulley and Dan Ream for a presentation and discussion of their recent trip, *Presbyterian Peacemaking Program Travel Study Seminar, Native Lands of the Southwest: The Doctrine of Discovery and its Legacy Today*. They will share their experiences of meeting with indigenous leaders, visiting Native American historic sites, and conversations with indigenous Presbyterians.

Sunday, June 11 Michael Hawn | *What is a Mission-Oriented Church?*

A brief overview of how the church has sung about mission(s) for the last 300 years, focusing on a 21st-century understanding.

Sunday, June 18 Betsey Moe | *Ministry as a Mission Co-Worker in Guatemala*

Betsey Moe, PC(USA) mission co-worker assigned to CEDEPCA and supported by Second Church, will be visiting us to make connections and to report on the ministry of CEDEPCA (the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America). CEDEPCA, located in Guatemala, is an educational institution that contributes to the transformation of lives and contexts by providing training and accompaniment, and by offering spaces for reflection to women and men from diverse Christian traditions, communities and contexts. CEDEPCA also strongly supports the education of women and disaster relief.

Christian Faith Formation | All Ages

Our program year takes a summer break from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

During the summer, the nursery will be open from 9:30 am-12:30 pm so that children, ages infant to completed grade 2, will have a place to be during worship.

Worship begins at 10:00 am in the summer months. On June 4, 11, and 18, we will have a three Sunday Summer Lecture Series focusing on mission. This series will be offered after worship in the dining room.

We will resume Sunday school offerings for all ages on Rally Day, September 10!

From The Studio at 2nd Pres

Artist's Statement for the Ordinary Time Banners: God's presence in our daily lives can emerge in the subtleties. In these banners, the bible stories of the ordinary time season emerge in the details. The banners are layered with paper lace and bible pages.

As in ancient art, we represented the ever presence of God with gold painted in thin layers over the bible page layer. Imagery of abundance and creation are celebrated over the main tree of life motif.



From The Gallery at Second Pres

Description of the Art Show for Ordinary Time: As artists, when we looked back at creating the work, we answered the question, “How does this artwork speak to God’s presence in the ordinary?”



We know that the minutiae of the everyday can sometimes feel mundane, but the details of life can also hold beauty, comfort, and rhythm. God is with us. We had artworks from artistic practices that sustained us through the pandemic years. We connected with God in the creative moments of producing the work. We saw the ways in which God continues to flow with us in our day-to-day lives, and permeates our moments with creative love, peace, joy, and justice.

Meet Betsey and Eric Moe, Mission Co-Workers in Guatemala



It is exciting to be able to host our new mission co-workers, Betsey and Eric Moe, during a weekend in June. Betsey will be preaching on **Sunday, June 18**, and Eric, a professional trumpet player, will be adding his musical gifts to the service. **Join them after the service** in the dining room to learn more about their life and work serving with CEDEPCA, the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America, where Betsey is engaged in a ministry of transformation. CEDEPCA has had a long partnership with Second beginning in the early 1990s.

Betsey and Eric Moe heard God’s call and signed on to serve with the Presbyterian Church as new mission co-workers and planned to move with their three children to Guatemala in 2020. The pandemic delayed their move, but they have accomplished much in a short time. A Presbyterian minister, Betsey is a graduate of Whitworth College and Princeton Seminary. She has served churches in Colorado and most recently in Spokane, Washington.

Note: Would you like to get to know them over a casual dinner on **Saturday night, June 17**? If you can extend a little extra hospitality, please be in touch with Mary Jane Winter (mjwinter@comcast.net) for a delightful evening.

Lectio Divina

All are invited to join us for the practice of Lectio Divina. Join us weekly on Mondays from 1:00-2:00pm 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 1:00pm by clicking [this link](#)

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

Summer Worship Time Reminder & Summer Office Hours

Join us this summer for worship at 10:00 am, with fellowship in the chapel afterwards.

(On Sunday, September 10th—the first Sunday after Labor Day—we will shift back to the regular hours: Church School at 9:30 am and Worship at 11:00 am.)

Summer Office Hours: The church office will be closing at 3:00 pm Monday-Friday between Memorial Day and Labor Day. We give thanks for our wonderful staff team!

Transition Information at Second Pres

from Kate Fiedler

Presbyterians believe that God uses committees, papers, procedures, and our polity—sprinkled with a generous measure of prayer, Scripture, and worship—to help a church family discern who it is that God is calling to be their pastor. The transition season takes time to build relationships with candidates to discern who will be called. This call is confirmed as the pastor, the church, and the presbytery each say “yes” to the relationship. This three-way partnership is acted out throughout the pastoral call process.

Roles of the Congregation during the transition:

- Continuing to support the ministry of the church through prayer, participation, and financial support during the time of pastoral transition
- Participate in the Mission Study this summer, through Holy Cow! Consulting
- Electing the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)
- Praying regularly for the PNC
- Electing the new pastor and approving the terms of call
- Welcoming the new pastor as the ministry begins

Transition Team of Three at Second:

- **Roger Gench:** summer 2023- acting head-of-staff, moderator of Session and leading staff meetings; starting in the fall of 2023, focus on worship & teaching
- **Mary Jane Winter:** pastoral care & worship
- **Fred Holbrook:** starting September 2023- head-of-staff, administration, moderating Session, leading staff meetings, and worship

All three pastors are familiar with Second Church, and are eager to support the congregation’s move through the transition season with grace, confidence, and clarity.

If you have other questions, please contact the staff, and check out the webpage for updates on the process: <https://www.2presrichmond.org/pastoral-transition>

If you would like to nominate someone to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee, please email Cliff Henderson (cehender@yahoo.com) and Vernon Mays (vernonlmays@gmail.com) with your nomination.

Deacons’ Corner

The deacons welcomed a new class of members at a special party, hosted in May by Toni Grant and Todd Schindler. The highlight of the day was a performance by the band, Third Wave, which specializes in songs by the Ventures, Beach Boys, and other surf favorites. Todd, pictured here playing guitar, joined in for a few songs.

Many thanks to Toni and Todd for a wonderful afternoon!



Preaching Schedule in June & July

June 4	Kate Fiedler
June 11	Roger Gench
June 18	Betsey Moe, CEDEPCA mission co-worker
June 25	Roger Gench
July 2	Roger Gench
July 9	Kate Fiedler
July 16	Kelley Connelly
July 23	Roger Gench
July 30	Roger Gench

Meet our New Members



Simon Kotto was introduced to Second Church through one of his middle school teachers. He has attended worship faithfully, helping with the Walk-In lunch program on Mondays. He grew up in Cameroon, and now he works at Habitat for Humanity.



Jerrod Sayles attends Walk-In, and started coming for Church School and Worship. When asked about his connection to Second, Jerrod replied, "This is my church." We are grateful that Jerrod feels connected here, and we are glad that he has officially joined our church family.



Sarah Clark Wood grew up in this congregation, and we are delighted she has rejoined Second's church family. Sarah has an extensive background in education and psychology. She has been enjoying attending the weekly Kerygma Bible study along with her mother, Marjorie.

Interested in Donating Worship Flowers?



There are several Sundays available: June 18, July 9, July 16, July 23, August 13, and September 24.

Please contact Dorothy DeJong (804-649-9148 or email ddejong@2presrichmond.org) if you are interested or if you have any questions. The cost is \$75 for the two arrangements.

Campus Ministry Updates

from Kelley Connelly

So long, Spring 2023!

May 2023 wraps up my third school year with the wonderful community of students, faculty and staff at Virginia Commonwealth University. It is such a blessing to be able to walk with this community.

How can you support campus ministry this summer?

- ◇ Consider making a financial contribution to The Pace Center, our partner in campus ministry. You can learn more about Pace [here!](#)
- ◇ Pray for the VCU community – that they may be able to enjoy their summer sabbath!
- ◇ Stay tuned for fall volunteer opportunities such as providing a meal, donating snacks, and participating in Wednesday communion.

Urban Engagement Updates

Volunteer with the Sprout School at 2nd Presbyterian!

The Sprout School opened a couple of months ago! There are two types of volunteer needs in this mission.

- ◇ Lunch support: delivering food to classrooms and washing dishes.
- ◇ Reading and Rocking: our classrooms need extra love in the morning! Come rock babies and read to sweet littles!

To become a Sprout volunteer please include your affiliation with 2nd Pres on [this volunteer application!](#)

Get connected to our Urban Mission Partners this summer!

The summer is a great time to get connected with our Urban Mission Partners in the area. If you don't already know about them, you can read about our many local mission partners on our website or by visiting [this link](#).

Additionally, many of our partners advertise current volunteer opportunities via HandsOn Greater Richmond—a service of the Community Foundation.

For a list of opportunities and more information, feel free to visit their website [here!](#)

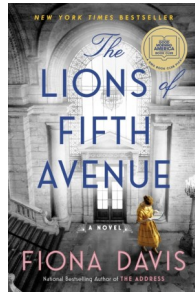
Literary Circle

Tuesday, June 13 at 7:00 pm

Literary Circle will meet on Tuesday, June 13 at 7:00 pm.

Lori Lape will host (1905 Westover Hills Blvd) and lead the discussion of *The Lions of Fifth Avenue* by Fiona Davis.

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



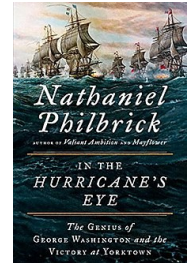
Day Book Group

Wednesday, June 21 at 10:00 am

The Day Book Group will meet at 10:00 am on Wednesday, June 21, in Room 308 Virginia Building and on Zoom.

The book for discussion is *In the Hurricane's Eye* by Nathaniel Philbrick.

All are welcome.



On Sunday, June 4 and 18, 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.

July-August Newsletter

The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter (the combined July-August "summer" issue) is Monday, June 19. Send to:

wjacob@2presrichmond.org

Words of Gratitude ~ From Alex and Ginger Evans

Dear Church Family,

Words cannot truly convey our overwhelming gratitude and sincere affection for the congregation and the outpouring of love and kindness toward us.

We cherish our 14 plus years of sharing life, faith, and fellowship with you.

We count our time at Second as the highlight of our years in ministry – so many relationships, joys, and celebrations. It has been our genuine honor and privilege to serve God alongside you. We have experienced God's goodness and grace in your faithfulness, your devotion, your sacrifices and service, and in so many Spirit-filled moments of our worship and work together.

We remain especially grateful and fully overwhelmed as we made the transition into retirement on April 30. The worship service—with personal comments from several different people—touched our hearts. The lovely reception and the sincere time with many of you in the Chapel will be remembered forever. The "love gift" was so very generous and launches us into this next chapter. And we have been reading very slowly and deliberately the wonderful Memory Book that was created with so many amazing comments from various ones of you.

THANK YOU SO MUCH – from our deep hearts of love for you, and from our life-altering time of serving with you.

Most sincerely,

*Alex and Ginger
May 16, 2023*





Second Presbyterian Church
OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

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