



Dear Friends in Christ,

As we continue on the Lenten journey towards Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, Brian McLaren's *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian* can help guide us. Peering at this work through the lens of Easter people, we most definitely have good news to share. We have a faith that can weep with and comfort those families of 209 children and teens (ages 0-17) who have been gunned down in the United States from the beginning of 2024 to February 22. Our country and our world need a new approach, a fresh start, a different way. Where do we begin?

The jacket flap on McLaren's book states: "He challenges readers to stop worrying, waiting, and indulging in nostalgia, and instead, to embrace the powerful new understandings that are reshaping the faith. He explores three profound shifts that define the change:

- ♦ Spiritually, growing numbers of Christians are moving away from defining themselves by lists of beliefs and moving toward a way of life defined by love.
- ♦ Theologically, believers are increasingly rejecting the image of God as a violent Supreme Being and embracing the image of God as the renewing Spirit at work in our world for the common good.
- ♦ Missionally, the faithful are identifying less with organized religion and more with organizing religion—spiritual activists dedicated to healing the planet, building peace, overcoming poverty and injustice, and collaborating with other faiths to ensure a better future for all of us."

We are "invited to seize the moment and set out on the most significant, spiritual pilgrimage of our time: to help Christianity to become more Christian."

The Second Pres family will gather on Maundy Thursday evening. We will remember that night when Jesus took bread and wine, giving it to the disciples. We will remember his washing their feet and saying, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35). That is the distinctive mark of Christians, a gift we have to give to this world. How are we doing? Are we committed to "the great spiritual migration?" What would it look like if the Second Pres family consciously dedicated ourselves to this journey? How would we state, afresh, our mission?

Let us join, downtown or online, and journey together, seeking to transform the part of God's world we touch with love.

In Christ's Service,



Fred Holbrook  
Interim Pastor



## Adult Education in March | 9:30-10:30am

~ with Roger Gench

### Lent | Cross Examinations: Atonement Theologies Past and Present

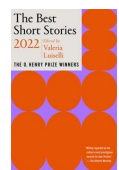
- March 3** Third Sunday in Lent  
Part 3: Christus Victor Atonement
- March 10** Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Part 4: Feminist and Womanist Critiques of Atonement Theologies
- March 17** Fifth Sunday in Lent  
Part 5: African American Atonement Theologies
- March 24** Palm Sunday ~ No Church School ~ Second Pres hosts the DCM (Downtown Community Ministries) Palm Sunday service
- March 31** Easter Sunday  
Wrap Up: Resurrection as Atonement

### Faith and Literature Class

Second's Faith & Literature adult Sunday school class will continue reading and discussing *Best Short Stories of 2022: The O. Henry Prize Winners* through the end of March.

As always, our class will be looking for themes of faith and spirituality in these stories. Our discussions happen simultaneously in person and via Zoom each Sunday morning.

Newcomers are always welcome at any time! For more information, please contact Dan Ream at [danream@gmail.com](mailto:danream@gmail.com).



### March 24 ~ Second Pres to Host DCM Palm Sunday Service

This year, Second Presbyterian Church will host the DCM (Downtown Community Ministries) Palm Sunday Service. We will meet at **9:30am** in the dining room for hot cross buns and to distribute palms, then move outside to our sanctuary's front steps on Fifth Street for a **10:00am** service with our partners.



Each week, the five churches of the DCM join together in the work of serving lunch to our unhoused community in downtown RVA. Our day to serve is Monday (Walk-In Ministry), and we provide hot soup, sandwich, and salad to over 100 guests. Throughout the week, our partners, St. Peter's Pro-Cathedral (Tuesday), Third Street Bethel AME (Wednesday), St. Paul's Episcopal (Thursday), and Centenary United Methodist (Friday) join us in Christian service by providing lunches to the same community. Adjacent services to the DCM ministries are flourishing.

## Children's Church School | 9:30 am | For children, ages 4 years to 5th Grade

Join Ms. Laura, Ms. Maggie, and Rev. Paul for Children's Choir and Sunday School.  
All are welcome!

1st Sunday of the Month — Music Time and Family **Worship** Service with Communion

2nd Sunday of the Month — Music Time and Church School | **Art**

3rd Sunday of the Month — Music Time and Church School | **Mission**

4th Sunday of the Month — Music Time and Church School | **Drama**

[5th Sunday of the Month] — Music Time and Church School | **STEM**

## Youth

**Youth Group | 6th grade through 12th grade | 9:30am-10:45am**

Join Annabelle and Andrew for Youth Group every Sunday in the youth suite!  
Waffles, conversation, and Bible study at 9:30am.



## Urban Engagement

### Black History Month Celebration

Sponsored by our Monday Walk-In Ministry, Second Pres hosted our yearly commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s ministry with a worship service on Monday, February 19. The RVA Street Singers choir, which began several years ago as a collaboration with the VCU Music Department and Second Presbyterian Church, performed four selections for the service.

Special thanks to Robin Rio for her continued leadership of this wonderful choir. Over 100 guests enjoyed a special barbecue luncheon and attended the service in the chapel.

Thanks to your generosity, the Winter Warmth Ministry also distributed coats, hats, socks, and gloves as our guests went on their way.

Thank you to the many volunteers and staff who worked tirelessly to make this amazing event happen. Please contact Elva Mapp ([eamapp@icloud.com](mailto:eamapp@icloud.com)) to get connected with these wonderful ministries of Second Presbyterian Church.



## Call to Serve at The Pace Center (VCU Campus Ministry)

Many hands make light work--we're looking for some additional volunteers to help us make a meal on **Wednesday, March 13**, for the VCU students who attend the Pace Center.

Please sign up or learn more at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EADAB23A7F94-47105473-vcupace#/> or contact Sandra Shelley at [sandra@sandrashelley.com](mailto:sandra@sandrashelley.com) if you can help, or if you have any questions. Thank you!

## PNC Corner

The PNC completed the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) which provides in-depth information about our church and a description for the position of Pastor/Head of Staff. This document was sent to the session for review and it was approved at the February 20 session meeting.

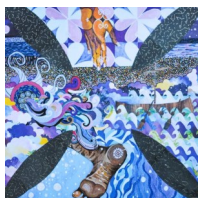
The PNC received a second training on February 26, provided by Leigh Anne Ring, POJ Presbyterian for Relational Care. After that date, the MDP will be posted on the PC(USA)'s Church Leadership Connection website and the PNC will start reviewing candidate applications. The MDP will also be posted on our church website.

The PNC appreciates your continued prayers.

## Lenten Art Exhibition ~ Wandering Heart

From the Gallery at Second Pres

Please spend time this season with the beautiful artwork in this wonderful art show.



The theme for this season of Lent is *Wandering Heart: Figuring out Faith with Peter*.

Peter goes through many emotions and approaches in his time with Jesus. Our artists for this season considered challenges in life that they overcame as they created each of these works. They have written an artist's statement exploring these challenges and successes, a metaphor for our collective journeys of faith, mirrored in Peter's.

## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering: Every Gift Changes Lives

In a world of natural disaster, hunger, and poverty, your gifts to the **One Great Hour of Sharing** change lives and bring hope and healing in the name of the risen Christ. All over the world, many benefit from this special offering—those in Ukraine with food assistance, those in Guatemala with an SDOP grant, those in Malawi with Disaster Assistance, and many more!

Second Presbyterian Church enthusiastically supports the One Great Hour of Sharing, one of the special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and encourages the generosity of every member.

Last year members gave \$3,188. And in 2022, \$7,555. We can do so again! We are richly blessed, and together we can make a difference in a hurting world.

Received on **Palm Sunday** and **Easter**, this offering supports **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, **the Presbyterian Hunger Program**, and **Self-Development of People**. All three work to assist those in need, whether it is relieving hunger, responding to natural disasters, or promoting economic development. Every gift changes the life of someone! **How to give?**

1. **Write a check**, payable to Second (memo line OGHS). Use the offering envelope provided and put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church.

2. **Give online** at the church's website.

Select the GIVE tab; Apply my gift to: Special Mission Offering. *Thank you!*



 SPECIAL OFFERINGS

## AFOI Update and Invitation



This past year at Assisting Families of Inmates has been exciting, fulfilling, and rewarding! We couldn't be prouder of the accomplishments our enthusiastic, dedicated team has achieved together in service to children, families, the community, and partner agencies we collaborate with each and every day. Over the past 12 months, AFOI has undergone unprecedented growth and change. Our children's services have expanded to include implementation of our MAC Program at additional school sites, completion of our MAC virtual curriculum, development of new in-print materials and the creation of a MAC middle school program underway. Compared to this time last year, the amount of direct client support provided through our many family services offerings including our family support groups, Family Reunification House and HEARTY programming has more than doubled. Our visitation programming has remained robust and grown to include technology expansion, additional video visitation centers and the relaunch of transportation services to Department of Corrections and Department of Juvenile Justice facilities throughout the state.

We've welcomed new staff as well as additional program volunteers to accommodate this exciting expansion. Throughout this growth and change, we've remained committed to our mission and guiding principles and continue to be ever so grateful to you for supporting us along the way!

As we move into our 46th year of service to families impacted by the incarceration of a loved one, we invite you to join us for our 46th Annual Fundraising Event: Gala and Casino Night on March 23, 2024 at the John Marshall Ballrooms. The last day to reserve seats is **March 8, 2024**. Please visit [AFOI.org/46th](https://AFOI.org/46th) for additional details and to purchase tickets. We hope to see you there as we GO ALL IN for Virginia children and families!

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## Pace Center News

One cold, windy January morning, a few Pace Center students walked to Kroger to purchase ingredients for a potato casserole. That evening, ten Pace students showed up to help make that casserole to donate to Reveille United Methodist Church's Friends of the Homeless Feeding Ministry.

The next day, during Communion Service, a student lifted up her joy of being able to cook with the others to help members of the Richmond community. Your church's community partnerships and support help to make transformative moments like these possible. Thank you!




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## March Mission Drive

The March donations list for ReEstablish Richmond includes sewing materials for a sewing program, literacy bag materials for English language students and their tutors, art supplies for a monthly youth art program, and snacks for in-person programs.



Please place materials in the Mission and Advocacy Drive Donation Bin in the Sanctuary Hall.



Holy  
Week

**Sunday, March 24**      9:30am Meet in Dining Room (no Church School)  
 10:00am DCM Palm Sunday Service at Second Pres  
 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary



**Thursday, March 28**      7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service in Chapel



**Sunday, March 31**      9:30am Church School

11:00am Easter Day Worship in Sanctuary



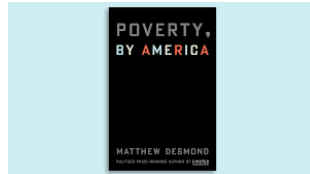
### Literary Circle

**Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00pm**

Literary Circle will meet at 7:00pm on Tuesday, March 12, at Kathy Pryor's home (1607 Claremont Avenue).

Kathy will lead the discussion of *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond. This book was named one of the top ten non-fiction books of 2023 by *Time Magazine*.

Please contact Carolyn Brandt (804-288-2511 or [crbrandt1412@gmail.com](mailto:crbrandt1412@gmail.com)) for more information.

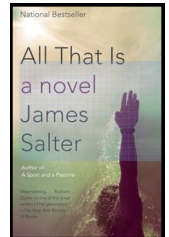


### Day Book Group

**Wednesday, March 20 at 10:00am**

The Day Book Group will meet at 10:00am, Wednesday, March 20 in Room 308 Virginia Building and by Zoom.

The book for discussion is *All That Is* by James Salter.



**Fair Trade Coffee and Tea Sales**

**March 3 & 17**

### A Wonderful Youth Sunday



We are thankful for the leadership and faith of our youth. The prayer of confession, affirmation of faith, and prayers of the people were written collectively by them for Youth Sunday.

L to R: Benjamin Lomeling, preacher; Grant Oros, soloist; and the youth participants at the benediction— Benjamin Lomeling, Henry Scott, Zoe Scott, Whitner Lilly, Frances Coats, Ada Lilly, and Liam Barkley.

## Session Highlights

The session held its stated meeting on February 20. This is news from their meeting.

1. The Pastor Nominating Committee presented the Ministry Discernment Profile which the session approved. The session expressed deep gratitude for the work of the PNC and promised continued prayers for them.
2. The Budget and Finance Council (B&F) proposed the 2024 balanced budget of \$1,486,147 which was approved.
3. Good news from the 2023 final budget report:
  - A. Pledged contributions for 2023 were projected to be \$890,000. The actual amount received was \$943,365!
  - B. “Support and Revenue” totaled \$1,404,576 versus “Expenses” of \$1,338,489 leaving a budget surplus of \$35,223!
  - C. While significant mission and ministry occurred onsite, 17% of the budget was given to others!
4. Capital expenses that urgently need attention were reviewed with the understanding that B&F will recommend sources for funding those expenses. The projects include roof repairs, sanctuary and chapel stained glass repairs, the cornice/soffit and refinishing windows of the Virginia Building, and HVAC units replaced for the Virginia Building.
5. Received updates from the Property Council on current projects including the pipe organ and chamber renovation, vestibule renovation, and repairs to the Courtyard Gate, all of which should be completed by the summer.
6. Approved the 2023 Annual Statistical Report submitted to the PC(USA). The report includes an active membership of 595 and a weekly worship attendance of 174 (including 25% of those worshipping weekly online).
7. Approved a special offering to replenish the Pastors’ Discretionary Fund.
8. Approved the baptism of Blair Elizabeth Donohue, daughter of Charlie and Meredith, on April 21.
9. Heard a wonderful review from Becky Hudson of the unwavering dedication of the Second Presbyterian Child Care Center to racial, economic, and religious inclusivity throughout its many years of service to and with children. This included remarkable persons of color on staff and in leadership.
10. Agreed to hold the April meeting of the session “in person.”
11. Offered prayers for Midge Cooke and family in the death of Charley Cooke on January 22.



### Brunch Bunch ~

**Friday, March 15 ~ 11:30am**

at McLean’s Restaurant

### April Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Monday, March 18**. Please send your submissions to:

[wjacob@2presrichmond.org](mailto:wjacob@2presrichmond.org)



# Second Presbyterian Church OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

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Sunday,  
March 10

### Preaching in March

March 3	Fred Holbrook
March 10	Fred Holbrook
March 17	Kate Fiedler
March 24	Fred Holbrook
March 31	Fred Holbrook



March 24	9:30am	Meet in Dining Room	
	10:00am	Palm Sunday Service on 5th St.	
	11:00am	Worship in Sanctuary	
March 28	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service	
March 31	9:30am	Church School	
	11:00am	Easter Day Worship	