



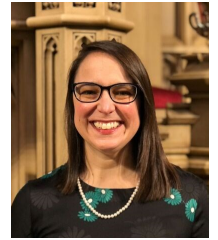
Second Press

Volume 40 Issue 5 May 2023

Dear Church Family,

We are entering a season of change and transition together. God has sent faithful leaders to serve at Second since its founding, and we trust that the right person will follow the Spirit’s guidance to join us for the next chapter of life and ministry together.

The scriptures remind us, *“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven”* (Ecclesiastes 3:1). As we navigate this season together, we strive to keep being a vibrant congregation, focused on excellent worship and mission in downtown Richmond.



Kate Fiedler,
Associate Pastor

Thank you for your patience as the Transition Team, led by Jon Heckel, has worked to discern the right leadership for the interim season. At the April meeting, the Session unanimously approved a resolution from the Transition Team. This resolution outlined a team approach for the transitional leadership of the congregation, with Roger Gench, Mary Jane Winter, and Fred Holbrook.

- **Roger Gench** will be the “bridge interim,” leading the team over the summer months. He will preach with a similar frequency as Alex, two to three times a month, and he will lead staff meetings and will moderate the Session. Starting in mid-September, Roger will shift into a quarter-time role, focusing on preaching once a month and teaching Adult Education classes.
- **Mary Jane Winter** will join the team on a quarter-time basis, focusing on pastoral care, mission, and worship.
- In mid-September, **Fred Holbrook** will join the Interim Team as the cornerstone. Fred will work half-time, focusing on administration, guiding the transition with the church and the Commission on Ministry of the POJ, and preaching an average of twice a month. Fred brings experience as a transitional pastor in churches in Lynchburg, Virginia, and Overland Park, Kansas, and he served as the interim general presbyter and stated clerk for the Presbytery of the James for three and a half years. He will lead First Presbyterian, Charlottesville, this summer, while their head of staff is away on sabbatical, and then he will join the Interim Team at Second.

We are fortunate to have three experienced pastors, who are familiar with Second church, all working from their strengths! One goal of this Interim Team is to guide Second in navigating this season in an expeditious and intentional manner. We do not want to slow down the work of the Holy Spirit.

I am delighted that all three pastors have agreed to join the team in leading Second through this season. My call to serve as your Associate Pastor is such a joy; I hope to “stay in my lane” as much as possible, ready to serve with the Interim Team and then to welcome the new pastor.

The process in calling a new pastor is complex in the PC(USA). Join me on Sunday mornings in the dining room in May, as I offer an overview of the call process and highlight how we are called to prepare to welcome new leadership. The Interim Team, church staff, and I invite your questions and prayers along the way, as we seek to follow Christ’s call to be the church during this next chapter.

I hope you, too, will find some inspiration for this interim season from the late Irish priest-poet-philosopher John O’Donohue:

*“As far as you can, hold your confidence...
 What is being transfigured here is your mind,
 And it is difficult and slow to become new.
 The more faithfully you can endure here,
 The more refined your heart will become
 For your arrival in the new dawn.”*



~ from *For the Interim Time*
 by John O’Donohue,
 from *Benedictus*,
 A Book of Blessings

Shalom,

Kate

Adult Education in May ~ 9:30-10:30am ~ through May 21

Dining Room Class

Pastoral Transitions in the PC(USA) ~ led by Kate Fiedler

What is the process after a pastor retires?

How can we prepare for our next pastor?

- May 7** The process overview and plans for an interim team at Second
- May 14** The Mission Study, Pastor Nominating Committee, and call process
- May 21** Time for reflection and service: *Who are we? Who is God calling us to be?*

The Studio Class



This Eastertide, come to The Studio, located on the Third Floor!

We are working on our Ordinary Time banners. Weekly instructions will be posted on the project so you know what to do.

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

They will be installed after Pentecost.

Contact Hannah with any questions at hgarrity@2presrichmond.org



Bible Class with Franklin Reding

We will continue with the Old Testament Roots and Paul's Theology.

For more information, contact Franklin at franklinr@presbyteryofthejames.org.

Faith and Literature Class



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

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.


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 lead worship in song, once more, before the summer. In Sunday school, they will continue to explore the bible story for the day in dynamic ways.



The last day of the church school program year is Sunday, May 21.

 <p><i>Worship Time Change</i></p>	<p>Sunday, May 28</p> <p>Worship time shifts to 10:00 am through Labor Day</p>
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From the Gallery

Artwork for the *Anything But Ordinary* summer/fall art show is due Tuesday, May 30.

Please complete the art submission form available on the gallery hall table (located in the parking deck hallway) or [.pdf linked here](#)

Just as we used to do, please attach the completed form to the back of your framed/mounted submission. Please bring artwork to The Studio, located on the Third Floor of the Virginia Building. You may lean it on the wall to the left of the door. We will install after Pentecost. Reach out to Hannah Garrity with any questions at hgarrity@2presrichmond.org

Looking ahead ~

Sunday, June 4 ~ 11:00 am to 12:00 noon ~ after Worship

Join Lucretia McCulley and Dan Ream for a presentation and discussion of their recent 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. The presentation will take place on Sunday, June 4, 11:00 am – 12 noon, in the Dining Room, after worship.

Deacons' Corner

With just a few calls remaining, the deacons are close to completing their telephone outreach to every member of our congregation. About 30 deacons took part in the effort.

The deacons enjoyed learning about what was happening in the lives of our members, and plan to send along any updated contact information and pastoral concerns. "Most people loved the fact that we were calling," says Communications Chair Allison Vogler. "They are enjoying everything that is going on with the programming, especially the ability to watch remotely when they can't attend in person."

Following a lovely Easter service, the deacons held a special fellowship hour after church, featuring a holiday reception and fun goody bags for the children. Others met later that afternoon at the Easter Parade.

Summer is almost here. As of May 28th, we will be switching back to 10:00 am worship, with fellowship time to follow.



Kate (and Scout), Lauriston, Mary Jane, and Mary

On L: Sharon Pederson; on R: Caroline Hillmar and family

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 1:00pm by clicking [this link](#) (Meeting ID: 951 6829 7558 // Passcode: 067514).

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

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 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!

Register at Montreat here: <https://montreat.org/forms/wc-2023-registration>

How Can You Engage with Mission and Advocacy at Second Presbyterian Church?

- ◆ Participate in **Collection Drives** for our Urban Mission Partners (6 times a year)
- ◆ Volunteer with our in-house missions:
Walk-In Lunch on Mondays Ministry (email eamapp@icloud.com)
Tuesday Shower Ministry (email kconnelly@2presrichmond.org)
- ◆ Join the **Mission Opportunities alert email list** about short-term volunteer mission projects (email kconnelly@2presrichmond.org)
- ◆ Join the **Advocacy Action alert email list** on Earth Care, Gun Violence Prevention, and Racial Equity issues. (email sallynaylorjohnston@gmail.com)
- ◆ Learn more under **OUTREACH** on the church website.

Give to the Pentecost Offering ~ It Changes Children's Lives

Your gifts to the **Pentecost Offering** will support the Summer Day Camp of Sacred Heart Center, a ministry to low income families south of the River, mostly Latino immigrants and refugees.

Cielito Lindo, a bilingual Day Camp provides nearly 75 at-risk children with 5 weeks of activities and enrichment (swimming, outdoor adventures, art, science, and more) as well as breakfast and lunch each day, and most importantly, with love and personal attention. The need is great. It brings children and youth together in a supportive environment, engages them in activities that can expand their horizons, and help them to thrive.

The Pentecost Offering will be received on Pentecost Sunday, **May 28**. In addition to helping locally, this offering also supports efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in ministries to children and youth, as well as Young Adult Volunteers.

Please give generously, either by check payable to Second Presbyterian Church, or on our church website. Please indicate it is for the Pentecost Offering.



Meet Betsey and Eric Moe, Mission Co-Workers

Mark your calendars for **June 16-18**, when Second will host Betsey and Eric Moe, who are serving in Guatemala as PC(USA) mission co-workers with CEDEPCA.

Betsey will preach Sunday morning the 18th, and we anticipate opportunities for the congregation to meet informally with both of them, over meals or after church.



New episode of Second Serving Podcast featuring The Evans

This month is a special episode of Second Serving podcast.

Kelley Connelly sits down with Ginger and Alex Evans as they reflect on their life in ministry together.

Give this episode a listen, and be sure to subscribe if you haven't already. Enjoy!

You can access this episode on Spotify using this link:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/4gf0N2D8JirQVqTydA2eIj?si=f019688f6c734eaa>



Are you cleaning out your closets?

Each Tuesday we welcome anywhere from 25-30 guests into our building for a shower and fellowship. When possible we love to offer the guests clean clothes to put on after they take a shower.

If you think you might have some items that are well suited for the clothes closet, please consult the guidelines below. Contact Kelley directly at kconnelly@2presrichmond.org to arrange a drop off. A good time to deliver items is on Tuesdays from 9:00 am—noon.

Shower Ministry Donation guidelines:

<https://www.2presrichmond.org/clothing-and-shoe-donation-guidelines>

Thank you for supporting this ministry!



On Sunday, May 7 and 21, 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.

Literary Circle**Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 pm**

Literary Circle will meet on May 9 at the home of Marty Berry, 10265 Cherokee Road.

Ellen Coates will lead the discussion of Charmaine Wilkerson's *Black Cake*.

Please contact Carolyn Brandt (crbrandt1412@gmail.com) or 804-288-2511 or Page Wagner (pagewagner@icloud.com) or 804-323-7038 for more information).

**Day Book Group****Wednesday, May 17 at 10:00 am**

The Day Book Group will meet at 10:00 am on Wednesday, May 17 in Room 308, Virginia Building and by Zoom.



The meeting will be to select books for discussion in the upcoming season.

Preaching Schedule for May & June

May 7	Leigh Anne Ring, Presbyter for Relational Care of the POJ
May 14	Roger Gench
May 21	Kelley Connelly
May 28	Roger Gench
June 4	Kate Fiedler
June 11	Roger Gench
June 18	Betsey Moe, CEDEPCA mission co-worker in Guatemala
June 25	Roger Gench



Second Presbyterian Church
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