



Friends in Christ,

“In a time of sorrow, in a time of grief, there is a hiding place to give relief.”

These lyrics written by Bryan Jeffrey Leech draw us toward God whose endless love is our hiding place. This is a time of sorrow and grief in our world family.

As Christians, we turn to the scriptures for strength and guidance.

In Romans 12:14-18, the Apostle Paul writes:

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

The New Revised Standard Version calls this section “Marks of the True Christian.” I invite us to read and reflect on Romans 12:9-21. There are many directions it can take our hearts and minds as God’s Spirit moves among us and our world. I feel drawn to invert verse 15 so that it reads: “Weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice.”

Our hearts break and our eyes weep because of the indiscriminate killing of children, women, and men in Israel and the Gaza Strip. Daily carnage breaks our hearts. Though Psalm 130 is one of thirty individual laments, we pray with the Psalmist, “Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear our voices.” We earnestly pray for peace in the Middle East, in Ukraine, and in Sudan where six months of war has led to the death of over 9,000 people. Words are insufficient. We weep with those who weep. God, help us.

We weep and we rejoice. We embrace Philippians 4:4-9 where scripture reminds us that God’s peace expands far beyond human understanding. God’s peace is demonstrably present at the corner of 5th and Main as we worship, study, serve, and fellowship together. God’s peace is evident in your stewardship of resources, time, and talents. Having been with you for two months, there is a spirit of rejoicing when, on a recent Monday, we planned for 130 guests and served lunch to 147! We rejoice when 40 guests showered on a recent Tuesday leading volunteers to envision expanding to two days a week! We rejoice that the Sprout School serves 70 diverse and vibrant children daily! We rejoice that your faithful stewardship supported youth attending the Massanetta Middle School Conference and the Montreat Youth Conference this past summer! We rejoice in your faithful support of members attending the Montreat Music and Worship Conference and the Women’s Connection Conference.

Yes, we weep with those who weep and we rejoice with those who rejoice. Through it all, it is God who is mightily at work in us and among us and through us. To God be the glory!

In Christ’s Service,



Fred Holbrook
Interim Pastor

Adult Ed in November | 9:30-10:30am every Sunday

Dining Room Class ~ with Roger Gench

Drink This Cup ~

The Sacraments for the Life of Second Presbyterian Church and the 21st Century

During this transitional season in the life of Second Presbyterian Church, understanding, embracing, and reforming our Christian identity is critically important, and the sacraments of the church—Baptism and Eucharist—are central rituals of faith that help facilitate. The course explores sacraments from distinctly new angles of vision that empower Christians to engage critical issues that we face in the 21st century—including environmental crisis, economic injustice, racism, gender diversity, and democratic politics.

November 5 Visual Art and the Sacraments | The Rev. Ann Laird Jones, Director of Art Ministry, Montreat Conference Center (recorded lecture); Hannah Garrity (discussion)

November 12 Drink this Cup—Eucharist in Mark’s Gospel

November 19 Eating Jesus—Eucharist in John’s Gospel

November 26 Concluding Reflection on the Sacraments for the Life of Second Presbyterian Church and the 21st Century



Faith and Literature Class



Second’s Faith & Literature adult Sunday school class has selected its next class discussion book—*The Best Short Stories 2022: The O. Henry Prize Winners*.

This book contains 20 prizewinning stories chosen from the thousands published in magazines over the previous year. These stories, by both well-known and emerging writers, include stories in translation from Bengali, Greek, Hebrew, Norwegian, Polish, Russian, and Spanish, as well as many originally published in English. The authors’ observations on what inspired their stories are also included.

As always, our class will be looking for themes of faith and spirituality in these stories. Our discussions of this new book 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.

Weekly Offerings

Monday Lectio Divina Bible Study (Zoom) with Kate Fiedler

Email katef@2presrichmond.org

Wednesday Book Study (Zoom) with Roger Gench

Email rgench727@gmail.com for more info!

Thursday Daytime Kerygma Bible Study

(In-Person/Hybrid) with Hannah Garrity

Email hgarrity@2presrichmond.org if you'd like to join!

Children

For children, ages 4 years to 5th Grade | 9:30am-10:45am every Sunday

We will meet in the music room for musical and choir practice, then head to the Sunday school room for Bible stories with an art, mission, drama, or STEM interactive.



1st Sunday of the Month — Musical Practice/Family **Worship** Service with Communion

2nd Sunday of the Month — Children's Choir Practice and Sunday School (**Art**)

3rd Sunday of the Month — Musical Practice and Sunday School (**Mission**)

4th Sunday of the Month — Children's Choir Practice and Sunday School (**Drama**)

(5th Sunday of the Month) — Children's Choir Practice and Sunday School (**STEM**)

On the first Sunday of the month, please plan to join us as a family in the Chapel for the new Family Worship Service with Communion during church school. This thirty-minute worship service is designed with families of young children in mind. Parents are invited to bring their children to fully participate in the service.

30 minute service (geared toward young families, open to all)

1st Sunday of each month

10:00am in the Chapel

Sing songs, scripture, children's message, prayer, communion.

Nursery

Infant to 3 Years Old | 9:15am-12:15pm during Sunday school and worship

4 years old to 2nd Grade | 10:45am-12:15pm during worship.

Children 3rd Grade and older sit with their families in worship.



Youth continue to meet Sunday mornings in the Youth Suite at 9:30am for waffles and conversation.

We also look forward to fellowship events coming up this fall!

Join us by staying after church on **Sunday, November 19** to watch a classic film in the cinema. We'll have pizza for lunch and then watch the movie.

Next, mark your calendars for our outing on **Sunday, December 10** at Top Golf for games and fellowship. We will share more details about when we will gather that afternoon later in November. See you then!

Staff Spotlight ~ Annabelle Beavers



Annabelle Beavers

We are delighted that Annabelle Beavers is serving as our seminary intern this year. Annabelle worked with us here at Second last year as a youth intern. She also worked with The Pace Center at VCU.

She will be leading us in worship and preaching three times during her internship. She is curious to learn more about how different congregations operate, and will attend committee meetings and be present for pastoral care visits.

Annabelle grew up in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and graduated from The University of Alabama in 2022. She is currently in her second year at Union Presbyterian Seminary.

One of Annabelle's favorite memories as a youth is when she attended the candlelight services at youth conferences in Montreat. Her favorite Bible verse is Psalm 119:105; she recited this verse at every elementary Sunday school class. She loves all things Alabama sports and enjoys being outdoors. One fun fact is that she has a twin sister, Mary Evelyn, who lives in DC.

Please offer a warm welcome to Annabelle when you see her!

Sunday,
November 19



Shower Ministry Clothes Drive for November

Cleaning out your closets? Enjoy the hunt for a good deal at thrift stores?

Consider donating any gently used clothing or shoes to the shower ministry. We will be collecting clothes and supplies to support the Shower Ministry during the month of November. Our guests are on their feet a lot and have expressed a need for new or gently used shoes (sizes 8-13), pants, and shirts. Though we primarily serve men, donations for women are always needed as well. If you have any of these around your home and would like to donate them to this new initiative, please bring them to the church in the bins in the hallway between the sanctuary and the chapel.

Other ongoing needs for the shower ministry include new towels, Lysol cans, and men's undershirts (sizes M-XXL). Thank you for supporting this ministry!



Karla Koll to visit Second Pres on Sunday, November 5



Join Karla Koll, mission co-worker in Costa Rica, for a lecture and reflections after worship on Sunday, November 5 in the dining room.

She will also be the preacher that day for morning worship.

A Reunion with Emerson Morales

It was wonderful to have Emerson with us again at Second.

He brought news from Guatemala on Sunday and then joined us at Walk-In Ministry on Monday.



Deacons' Corner

The deacons gathered after church on October 1st for a potluck lunch. On the agenda, they discussed plans for the upcoming fall and holiday season.



On October 21st, the deacons sponsored the annual churchwide oyster roast. Casey Cash, one of the musicians from the band 3rd Wave, generously hosted us at his lovely home on the Pamunkey River. The weather was beautiful, and we enjoyed wonderful camaraderie, delicious oysters, and fun surf music, including a special appearance by our own talented Bill Vogel, who sang a medley of Johnny Cash tunes with the band.



On Sunday, December 10th after worship, the deacons will once again host the holiday trivia and ugly sweater event.

We hope to see lots of light-up, Christmas kitty, and jingle bell holiday attire at this special fellowship after church!

During the holidays, the deacons will deliver Christmas bags filled with baked goods and other treats to those in our congregation who are unable to attend services in person. The tradition began in the pandemic to help people stay connected.

“It helps them to feel a part of us, if they are not able to be here,” Susan Nochtka said. “When you visit them, you can tell they enjoy the visit as much as the bag,” Dixon Kerr added.



Fun times at the Oyster Roast!

Holy Cow! Consulting Final Deadline

Many of you have shared your thoughts and experiences by completing the Church Assessment Tool survey from Holy Cow! Consulting. You have our gratitude. Rest assured that your responses are 100% confidential.

If by chance you have not completed the assessment yet, you have until Friday, November 3rd to make your voice heard. Consider completing the survey TODAY!

If you need a paper copy, please stop by the office, and we will provide one for you along with a self-addressed stamped return envelope. If you have questions, please contact Kate (katef@2presrichmond.org).

Thanks for sharing your voice and feedback in this Mission Study effort.

From the Gallery at Second Pres

Show Closing | Sunday, November 5 | Anything But Ordinary Art Show



Join us in the Chapel to celebrate the artists and the beautiful works that have graced our gallery hall over these months. The artists are: Joani Latimer Fergusson, Rob Fergusson, Mary Millet, Charles McConnell, Harlan McMurray, Janice McMurray, Kathleen Murphy, and Kathy Pryor.

Earth Care and Environmental Justice at Second Pres

Would you like to get involved at Second Presbyterian in our congregation's efforts to address earth care and environmental justice? Please contact Sally Johnston (sallynaylorjohnston@gmail.com) and plan to attend this upcoming workshop:

Growing Congregational Earth Care and Environmental Justice Ministries

- **WHAT:** VA IPL is an interfaith organization that collaborates with people of faith to address climate change. Dr. Faith Harris, Director of VA IPL, will help us explore ways people of faith can work together to advocate for earth care and environmental justice.
- **WHEN:** Sunday, November 5, from 2:00pm-4:00pm
- **WHERE:** Bon Air Presbyterian Church, 9201 W. Huguenot Rd., Richmond, VA

100% Voting Congregation: The Sacred Privilege of Voting

The Mission and Advocacy Council recently committed to the non-partisan **100% Voting Congregation Commitment** through the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, one of our urban mission and advocacy partners. Along with congregations across Virginia, we will strive to vote in the upcoming 2023 elections. Every Virginia state House and Senate seat is up for election in November. This will be the first-time state House and Senate candidates have run in the new districts following last year's redistricting.

How can you join this commitment?

- Make sure you are registered to vote at: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>
- Find out about your new district and the candidates at: <https://www.vpap.org/>

Contact Lucretia McCulley, lucretia.mcculley@gmail.com with any questions.

The Pace Center started the Fall 2023 semester with a bittersweet touch as we bid farewell to our friend Kelley Connelly. Although Pace isn't the same without her, we've had a record start to our school year.

We welcomed over 600 students within the first two weeks of classes. Now the semester is in full swing and we have 15 weekly community-building events including Communion, Small Groups, Bible Study, and a "Church Crawl" where students are able to experience a new area church service each week.

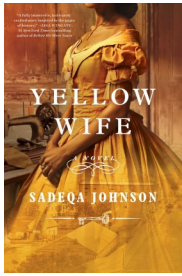
The Rev. Russ Kerr helps guide students through many of these programs as the Pace Center's Student Engagement Coordinator. Russ is an ordained Presbyterian minister and is currently a Parish Associate Pastor at Gayton Kirk Presbyterian Church. He will continue to serve the Presbyterian students of VCU and will carry on where Kelley left off. Thank you for your continued support of this campus ministry!



(L to R) Russ Kerr, Kelley Connelly, and friends

Literary Circle

Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00pm



Literary Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 14, at 7:00pm. Linda Merrick will host (14 West Locke Lane) and lead the discussion of Sadeqa Johnson's *Yellow Wife*, a fascinating story set in Richmond.

Please contact Carolyn Brandt (crbrandt1412@gmail.com or 804-288-

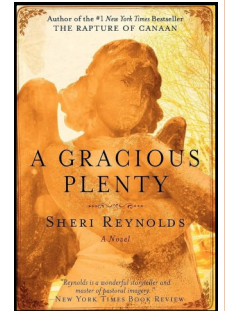
2511) or Page Wagner (pagewagner@icloud.com or 804-323-7038) for more information.

Day Book Group

Wednesday, November 15 at 10:00am

The Day Book Group will meet at 10:00am, Wednesday, November 15, in Room 308 Virginia Building and by Zoom.

The book for discussion is *A Gracious Plenty* by Sheri Reynolds.



Session News

The session met on October 17. Following an opening devotion and prayer, the elders uplifted the family of Richard Samuel "Major" Reynolds III who passed away on September 18.

Among reports received was the treasurer's that, year to date, income continues to exceed expenses. In the memorandum of understanding, the Sprout School was granted up to 20 spaces in the parking deck. Discussion ensued about how Second Pres covers this cost as part of its mission support.

The Budget and Finance Council shared about budget preparations for 2024. It was noted that Stewardship Dedication Sunday is November 19.

Three commissioners were elected for the October 21 stated meeting and for the November 16 called meeting of the presbytery.

Session approved the recommendation from Personnel that the two positions of Children's Minister and Director of Urban Engagement be combined into one. A candidate will be announced upon acceptance of the offer.

The mission study assessment has been sent out to the congregation and the session was asked to attend a meeting on November 9 to hear and receive the study report. A congregational meeting will be called to elect nine members to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee.

The meeting was closed in prayer including concerns for members and needs within the congregation and the world.



Coffee and Tea Sales

November 5 & 19

Coffee: \$9/bag

Tea: \$5/box

December Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is **Monday, November 20**. Please send to:

wjacob@2presrichmond.org





Second Presbyterian Church
OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

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Preaching Schedule for November

November 5 Karla Koll
November 12 Annabelle Beavers
November 19 Kate Fiedler
November 26 Fred Holbrook

Children's Thanksgiving
Offering received on
November 19

