



Second Press

Volume 40 Issue 10 October 2023



Fred Holbrook
Interim Pastor

New Friends in Christ,

We are in a time of transition. The pastoral staff and the session feel that it is wise to share the division of responsibilities and priorities as I have joined the team. But first and foremost, let me publicly express my gratitude to all the Second Pres staff for their leadership before and throughout these past months. It is a true blessing to work with such remarkable servants of Christ!

My wife Laura will continue teaching Sunday school with 4th and 5th grades at First Pres Charlottesville from which she retired in 2022 as Director of Family Ministry and Congregational Care. She looks forward to coming to Second Pres with me when schedule permits. We live in Troy, just east of Charlottesville, from which I will commute on Sundays and Tuesdays ordinarily. The 19-hours per week agreement includes working from home as well as coming to Richmond as additional needs may arise.

As the interim pastor, I am required to carry out the five developmental tasks of interim ministry which are to help Second Pres 1) come to terms with its history; 2) discover a new identity; 3) re-think denominational linkages; 4) facilitate shifts of leadership; and 5) commit to new leadership and a new future.

The session, with approval of the Presbytery of the James (POJ), has established a Covenant for Interim Pastor with five priorities:

1. Administration (serve as head of staff and moderator of the session; meet with and provide primary staff support to Budget and Finance, Personnel, and Stewardship Councils; moderate congregational meetings)
2. Developmental Needs of the Congregation (work with pastor nominating committee and liaise with the POJ in the search process, support the congregation in this transitional period, provide energy and guidance in conflict resolution, team with Kate in providing officer training)
3. Worship Preparation and Leadership (plan and lead corporate worship; preach, on average, twice monthly and for some of the special services; serve as one of the liturgists on the other Sundays; conduct weddings and funerals in coordination with Kate and other staff)
4. Pastoral Care and Visitation (serve as secondary provider of pastoral support, after Mary Jane and Kate, for members who are in the hospital, homebound, or in hospice care)
5. Educational Ministry (lead a session within a series in church school, facilitate conversations about the transition process)

In this transitional model, Kate will continue as associate pastor with priorities in place prior to Alex's retirement with the addition of being primary staff to the Trustees and to the Holy Cow! Consulting mission study. Mary Jane will continue part-time as minister of pastoral care. And Roger will return to his primary role as theologian in residence, teaching several classes weekly as well as serving as a liturgist on occasion.

I am humbled and thankful to serve in this position with Second. Please contact me should you have questions or needs within this covenant relationship. My email is fholbrook@2presrichmond.org, my cell number is 540-421-4421, and my office number is 804-649-0148, ext. 100.

In Christ's Service,

Adult Ed in October | 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 can help facilitate. The course will explore the 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.

- October 1** Baptism as a Verb: The Animating Power of Baptism
- October 8** Baptism and Apocalypse: The River, the Tree of Life, and the New Creation
- October 15** Baptismal Promises | Kate Fiedler
- October 22** Traditional Understandings of the Eucharist and Contemporary Trajectories
- October 29** Eucharist as Subversive Memory—Pauline Perspectives



The class continues through the end of November.

**Faith and Literature Class**

The adult education Faith & Literature class will finish the short stories from our current book *The 60s: The Story of a Decade* on October 22nd.

On or before October 8th we will choose our next book for discussions beginning October 29th.

Newcomers are always welcome to join the class. For more information (and Zoom link for those joining our class at home), contact Dan Ream at danream@gmail.com.

This class meets in Room 308 (Pastor's Classroom) on the third floor.

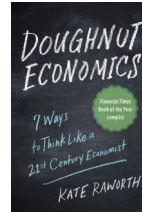
Weekly Offerings

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, October, 2023 to May, 2024

10:00am in the Chapel

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

From singing to praying to sharing communion, families can experience all of the facets of Christian worship together. After a long week of childcare, perhaps you don't want to drop your kids off once more—here's your chance to form faith as a family. While this service is geared toward families with young children, it will be powerful for our community to be well represented in the congregation.



Join Annabelle, Maggie, and Kate for waffles and conversation each Sunday morning in the youth suite on the third floor of the Virginia Building.

We are planning our fall activities, so email Kate (katef@2presrichmond.org) with your ideas.

See you on Sundays!

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.

Kroger Rewards Benefit our Walk-In Ministry

If you already shop at Kroger, please consider linking your rewards card to Second Presbyterian Church. The Kroger Company family of stores is committed to helping local neighborhoods and helping create stronger communities.



Our statistics: May 28—August 27

52 households participated (49 last quarter)

\$279.34 donated (\$268.97 last quarter)

Keep shopping. It truly can't be any easier than this!

Peacemaking Offering Provides Safety for Children in Guatemala



If you live in a “red zone” in Guatemala, you are in constant danger—especially from ever present gangs. Children and youth become easy targets. In the midst of this culture of daily violence, one church is making a difference by offering an after school program to keep vulnerable kids off the streets and away from the gangs and drug dealing that threaten their very lives.

Half of the Peace and Global Witness offering will support this effort in Guatemala while the other half will support the PC(USA)'s Peacemaking Program.

Our friend Emerson Morales is the pastor who envisioned this program after being convicted in his studies at CEDEPCA that God wanted a better life for the children who live in the neighborhood around his church. Now over 300 children come on alternate days. Here they find a safe haven of peace, as well as nutritious food, activities of affirmation, and the love of Christ.

Your generous gift to the Peace and Global Witness offering, received on World Communion Sunday, **October 1**, will make a difference in Guatemala and beyond.

Please write a check payable to Second or give online through the special offering option. Thank you for your generosity!



Gun Violence: How People of Faith Can Stop This Uniquely American Epidemic: A 3-Week Study

Join Lucretia McCulley and Terry Crickenberger for a 3-week study/discussion via Zoom on **October 11, 18 and 25** (Wednesdays) from **7:00-8:00pm**.

The June 2023 issue of *The Presbyterian Outlook* is dedicated to gun violence and this resource for our readings and discussion will be used.

Copies of the *Outlook* will be distributed to participants and we will read and discuss one or two articles each week. Please register for this study at: <https://tinyurl.com/outlookdiscussion>.

Contact Lucretia McCulley or Terry Crickenberger for further information.

Deacons' News

“We are gearing up for a full and exciting month,” Kate Fiedler said at our meeting at the beginning of September. Her prediction turned out to be accurate.

The deacons enjoyed Rally Day, including taking part in the delicious barbeque lunch after church. A special part of the day was spending just a little more time with the Rev. Kelley Connelly, before she left for North Carolina. We will miss her and wish her the best!

One of Kelley’s many legacies to our church is her great success in growing the *Stories and Lunch* program at the VCU Pace Center. There are now approximately 50 students who come to this ministry each Wednesday.

If you would like to help on this team, bringing an item maybe once a semester, please send your name to: sandra@sandrashelley.com. Many hands make light work.

On September 17, the deacons dished up Gelati Celesti for the grand reveal of the timeline on the second floor. Stop by the exhibit to learn how Second is reconciling our past, as we move forward together.

Second members shared news of their recent trip to Guatemala and CEDEPCA mission partner at the service on September 24. Our hospitality time afterwards had a fitting fiesta theme—olé!

In October, the deacons will sponsor a church-wide oyster roast on Saturday, October 21. Look for more details in this newsletter.

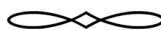
We distributed the updated directories on Rally Day. Please let us know if you did not receive one.



We enjoyed Rally Day lunch and wished Kelley (pictured here with her parents) all the best!



New directories are here! Judy Cutting (L) and Anne Foard (R)



Coffee and Tea Sales
October 1 & 15
 Coffee: \$9/bag
 Tea: \$5/box

Guatemala Guest Coming to Second



Emerson Morales, a special friend of Second Presbyterian Church and our mission partner CEDEPCA, will be our guest **October 14-19**.

In addition to being with us in worship on **Sunday morning, October 15**, Emerson is looking forward to spending time with church members and friends, both old and new!

Emerson cherishes the time he spent with Second nearly 10 years ago, when he came to be part of the congregation while he took classes at the Seminary and worked to improve his English.

He has been the leader for CEDEPCA of many visits from Second, beginning in 2009 with our youth, and including the last one this summer.

Please welcome Emerson! If you would like to plan an opportunity with him, please contact Mary Jane Winter (mjwinter@comcast.net).

Oyster Roast ~ Saturday, October 21

The Deacons are excited to host the **2nd Annual Oyster Roast on Saturday, October 21st, from 3:00-5:30pm**.

This year we will have a live band providing music, and we'll gather at *10158 Pamunkey Drive, New Kent (23124)*, overlooking the water!

Folks may want to bring blankets for sitting on the lawn. Dress for fall weather. The Deacons will provide drinks and additional snacks.

Come one and all for some fall fun and fellowship!



The lovely location of this year's Oyster Roast!

Yaupon Place Book Club Invitation: Living Resistance

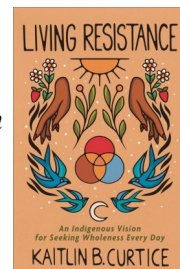
Have you been longing for community space that moves beyond just the whats and whys of “resistance,” and helps you explore how to truly live a life of peace and justice—ethically, soulfully, integrated, and embodied? Yaupon Place is excited to partner with Union Presbyterian Seminary’s Leadership Institute and host a transformative book club to study *Living Resistance: An Indigenous Vision for Seeking Wholeness Every Day*, by Kaitlin B. Curtice.

The group will meet online for three weeks on Wednesday evenings, 6:00-8:00pm, on **October 11, 18, and 25**; and one additional time on Wednesday, **November 1**, in person, at Yaupon Place.

To register, go to: https://na.eventscloud.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=768616&utm_medium=email&utm_source=substack

To listen to a podcast interview to learn more about the intersection of this book with Yaupon Place, go to: <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/upsemleadins/episodes/Yaupon-Place-Book-Club-e292uf7>

(We recognize that this book club meets at the same time as the three-week gun violence study that Lucretia McCulley and Terry Crickenberger are leading.)

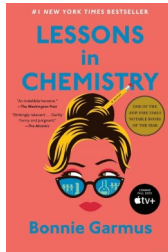


Literary Circle

Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00pm

Literary Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 10, at 7:00pm at the home of Lori Lape (1905 Westover Hills Blvd). Lori will lead the discussion of *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

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

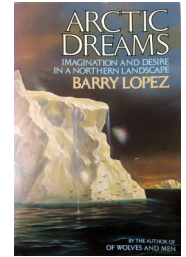


Day Book Group

Wednesday, October 18 at 10:00am

The Day Book Group will meet at 10:00am, Wednesday, October 18 in Room 308 Virginia Building and by Zoom.

The book for discussion is *Arctic Dreams* by Barry Lopez.



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/>
- Volunteer to write postcards to Virginia citizens who vote infrequently.

Questions? Contact Lucretia McCulley, Congregational Liaison to VICPP.

Would you like to join the team to support

VCU students? We're collecting names of people who might be interested in helping with Pace Center lunches at VCU this school year. You can join our email interest list by writing: sandra@sandrashelley.com.

Walk-In Canned Food Drive

The number of our neighbors coming to eat lunch on Mondays is rising steadily, and we need to replenish our soup ingredients. Please bring canned vegetables, any size cans, and place in the Walk-in box. We also can use cereal bars, gummy fruit bars, and individual bags of chips for the snack suppers. Thank you!

Support the Shower Ministry

With our growing numbers on Tuesday mornings, our needs continue to rise. Please consider donating the following items: women's underwear (sizes S-XL), men's undershirts (sizes M-XXL), ground coffee, new (or like new!) towels, toothbrushes, and small toothpastes. Donations can be placed in the bins in the hallway outside of the sanctuary. Thank you for supporting this ministry!

Friday Brunch Group ~ Friday, October 20

Do you have the third Friday mornings free? Perhaps you have retired or are not working right now. Do you enjoy getting to know others over a meal and conversation and finding new connections?

Come to McLean's (3205 Broad St.) for brunch on **Friday, October 20** at 11:30. Order from either the breakfast or lunch menu and pay individually. Second Pres has a private room. For more details, call Mary Spain (804-359-2624) or Mary Jane Winter (804-359-5599).

November Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is **Monday, October 16**. Please send to:

wjacob@2presrichmond.org



Second Presbyterian Church
OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

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Preaching Schedule for October

October 1	Fred Holbrook
October 8	Fred Holbrook
October 15	Kate Fiedler
October 22	Fred Holbrook
October 29	Chris Burton

World Communion Sunday

October 1



Peace and Global Witness Offering
Received