

# Second Press

Volume 40 Issue 9 September 2023

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers, support, donations of books, and well wishes as our team of ten traveled across Guatemala in July. We were inspired by the people we met, the stories of perseverance and survival we heard, the beauty of the country as we traveled, and the impact of CEDEPCA. You will hear more about our experience when we lead worship on September 24, and you may see more pictures inside.

I want to share two instances of God's harvest that we witnessed.

First, while visiting CEDEPCA's offices on the first full day, we took time to take a group picture by the sports utility vehicle that was purchased with a donation from our most recent capital campaign. One of CEDEPCA's programs is disaster assistance and risk assessment. After storms around the country, CEDEPCA staff were able to use the SUV to gain access to hard-to-reach communities, bringing aid, supplies, and support. This vehicle is being used today to help connect communities with the programs and resources of CEDEPCA.



Our Guatemala travel group with the SUV

Second, we gathered around in a dark-lit room to learn about how Justa, pictured, made dark chocolate by hand and sold it. Justa is a part of a group of women who receive micro-loans from CEDEPCA. Another woman in Justa's group owns and operates a bakery, and another sells school and office supplies. During a previous capital campaign, Second provided the seed money to begin the program, over 15 years ago. Now, over 700 women have a micro-loan, giving them access to funds so that they can begin their own businesses. Each woman who receives a micro-loan is part of a group of other women, who can help them navigate the complexity of supporting their families while running a business. Let me say that again—700 women across Guatemala currently have a loan! That is the kind of impact Jesus talked about with the disciples. This is the kind of kin-dom building we are called to—using our generosity to support families and encourage women.



Justa displays the chocolate that she makes

CEDEPCA focuses on:

- Theological education, particularly for women;
- Disaster relief and risk assessment;
- Micro-loans to support small businesses run by women; and
- Intercultural exchanges with other countries, to welcome them to Guatemala.

Thank you, Second Church Family, for your ongoing support of this incredible mission partner! Your prayers, your visits, your participation in online events, and your financial support are making a difference in Guatemala. The seeds from our earlier support are taking root and yielding inspiring results, changing lives across the country.

Join us the next time we travel to Guatemala to connect with our partners at CEDEPCA.

Paz & Esperanza (Peace & Hope),

*Kate*



### Sunday, September 10th

- ◆ Join us at 9:30am in the Courtyard for refreshments and fellowship
- ◆ Church School Classes for all ages
- ◆ Worship at 11:00am
- ◆ Alamo BBQ Lunch after Worship!

The theme for Children's Sunday School music this year is *Room for God*.



During the fall, the children will be preparing a musical called *Room for Christmas*. The songs are fun, catchy, rhythmic, and humorous. There will be plenty of *room* for inspiration this program year!

### 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

Our program year begins on Sunday, September 10, with Rally Day!

Join us in the courtyard at 9:30am to preview our children's musical for the fall and meet our wonderful Sunday School teachers and nursery care team. Starting September 10th, the nursery will be open from 9:15am-12:15pm.

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

### Children's Faith Formation

**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)

1<sup>st</sup> 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.*

**Youth Fellowship  
Revs Up!**



Join us in the Youth Suite, starting Rally Day, September 10, for waffles, conversation, and time to reflect. Annabelle and Maggie will be back, and Bailey Sloop will join in the fun as another youth advisor.

We'll talk about planning fun activities for the fall, so don't miss our first gathering!

**The Climate Crisis & Empowering Hope  
2023 Hybrid Conference: September 20-23**  
Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center

You are invited to attend a Hybrid Conference Meeting on Climate Crisis & Empowering Hope, September 20-23. There will be workshops, worship, bible study, and plenary talks.



For info and to register:

<https://presbyearthcare.org/2023-conference/>

**Adult Faith Formation | 9:30-10:30am**

**Dining Room Class ~ with Roger Gench ~ September 10 through November 26**

*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.*



- September 10** Introduction: The Sacraments, Second Presbyterian Church, and the 21st Century
- September 17** Baptism in Local Water: Contextualizing Baptism
- September 24** Baptismal Maps: The Font as Spatial Center of the Christian Life
- 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.*

**Adult Faith Formation | 9:30-10:30am (continued)****Adult Bible Study ~ with Jack Moorman**

Jack Moorman will lead the Adult Bible Study in September with a focus on the Karl Barth approach. This study will explore who Barth was and what he believed, teaching others to follow the premise of holding the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. This class will meet in the Atrium Conference Room.

**Faith and Literature**

The adult education Faith & Literature class will resume simultaneous in-person and Zoom meetings on Sunday mornings in September. We will finish up the list of short stories that we read in January through May from the New Yorker magazine anthology of stories and essays entitled *The 60s: The Story of A Decade*. Here are the final six stories we will be discussing in September and early October:

- The ormolu clock by *Muriel Spark*
- A & P by *John Updike*
- The hunter's waking thoughts by *Mavis Gallant*
- The swimmer by *John Cheever*
- The Indian uprising by *Donald Barthelme*
- The key by *Isaac Bashevis Singer*



Newcomers are always welcome to join the class and for those wishing to join our discussions. Copies of these stories will be provided on request. During September we will discuss and vote upon our next book discussion, to begin in late October. For more information (and Zoom link for those joining our class at home), contact Dan Ream at [danream@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:katef@2presrichmond.org)

**Wednesday Book Study (Zoom)**  
with Roger Gench

Email [rgench727@gmail.com](mailto:rgench727@gmail.com) if you'd like to join!

**Thursday Daytime Kerygma Bible Study**  
(In-Person/Hybrid) with Hannah Garrity

Email [hgarrity@2presrichmond.org](mailto:hgarrity@2presrichmond.org) if you'd like to join! First meeting September 14, 2023.

**Thursday Evening Kerygma Bible Study**  
(Zoom) with Hannah Garrity

Email [hgarrity@2presrichmond.org](mailto:hgarrity@2presrichmond.org) if you'd like to join! First meeting September 14, 2023.

## Anything But Ordinary Art Show

Where in the beauty and mess of the world do you find God in the details? Make sure to check out The Gallery exhibition (in the hallway as you enter from the parking deck) and read the artists' statements for their work. Artists explored the extraordinary presence of God in the ordinary details of life through photography and art.



## 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).

## Join Us in Celebrating in September!



- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>September 3</b>  | Kelley Connelly's last Sunday at Second + Fellowship with Gelati Celesti after worship (*final 10:00am service)                   |
| <b>September 10</b> | Rally Day + BBQ Lunch after worship (*worship moves to 11:00am)   |
| <b>September 17</b> | We welcome Fred and Laura Holbrook + Timeline Grand Reveal! Fellowship extended after worship with tours of second floor timeline |
| <b>September 24</b> | Celebrating Mission Partners! CEDEPCA reflections in worship + festive fellowship after worship                                   |

## 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.

## Gun Violence: How People of Faith Can Stop This Uniquely American Epidemic

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.

## Deacon's News

Three deacons, Kitty Bryant, Heidi Campbell, and Dixon Kerr were among the group of 10 who traveled to Guatemala in August, to visit Second's ministry partner CEDEPCA.

Kitty had the opportunity to visit the Catholic Church in Santiago Atitlán where an American priest named Stan Rother served and was martyred. There is a book about his life called *Love in a Fearful Land* by Henri Nouwen which she finished reading right before the trip. "Everybody on the trip was so great. I'm fairly new at church and I enjoyed getting to know some other people," she said.

According to Dixon, "Each day was packed with meeting people." He enjoyed learning about the microloans supported by Second that helped locals start their own small businesses. Over 700 local woman now have a microloan that is helping them make a living.

Heidi noted that everywhere the group went, they met people whose lives had been changed by the mission. "It helped me put together in my own mind what a difference it does make. Their whole world has changed because of CEDEPCA." Thank you for representing our group!

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On July 16, the deacons beat the heat of summer with an ice cream social after church that featured "heavenly handmade" Gelati Celesti. According to Anne Looney, "It was a big success. Some people tasted every flavor! This would be a fun annual event for our church."

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Speaking of good times, Toni Grant and Todd Schindler have generously offered to host the churchwide second annual oyster roast at their lovely home in October.

Stay tuned for details!




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## Winn Endowment Fund Grants

The Mission and Advocacy Committee is pleased to report that the following grants were made this year from the Winn Endowment.

1. **REAL LIFE**, a current mission partner received a grant to create a curriculum for their graduates that will continue to help build life skills as they move into the community.
2. **Voices of Jubilee** is an organization that seeks to connect with incarcerated youth in the Richmond area. Started by two Presbyterian ministers, they go into the Juvenile Detention centers and offer support, including accompanying youth and families to Court.
3. **ReEstablish Richmond**, another Mission partner of Second, requested funds to run a program for refugee youth that encourages them to express their experiences through art and writing.
4. **Capital Trees** received a grant to support their Hotchkiss Field and Community Center project. The 1.8 acre green space will be an anchor for the Highland Park neighborhood.

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## 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!

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## School is in session at VCU

### Prepare or sponsor a meal for students at The Pace Center!

The Wednesday lunch program, *Stories and Lunch*, returns the last week of August. Each week, thoughtful conversation and fellowship over food happens at The Pace Center. They are looking for volunteers to prepare or sponsor a lunch each Wednesday. More information can be found on the Sign Up Genius [here!](#)

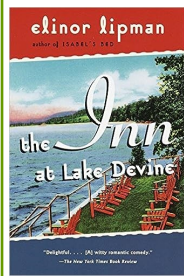
## Friday Brunch Group on September 15

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 September 15 at 11:30. Order from either the breakfast or lunch menu and pay individually. Second Presbyterian Church has a private room. For more details, call Mary Spain (804-359-2624) or Mary Jane Winter (804-359-5599).

### Literary Circle

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



Literary Circle's first meeting of the year will be September 12 at 7:00pm.

Marty Berry will be the hostess (10265 Cherokee Road).

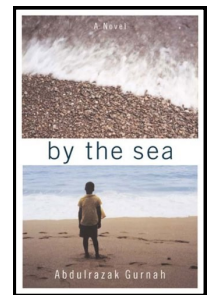
Ellen Coates will lead a discussion of Elinor Lipman's *The Inn at Lake Devine*.

### Day Book Group

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

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

The book for discussion is *By The Sea* by Abdulrazak Gurnah.



## Parting Words from Kelley Connelly

Dear Church Family,

Believe it or not, July 1, 2023 marked three years working in ministry alongside Second Presbyterian Church and the VCU community. My first several months in the role as the UKirk Resident Pastor included filming worship on Friday afternoons, hosting Zoom game nights with four college students, and preaching to a sanctuary with just a few other people and a camera. For an extroverted and eager recent seminary graduate, that was less than ideal, and a challenge I felt sorely underprepared for. And yet... God's work prevailed.

For three years it has been such a privilege to serve on the pastoral staff here at Second Presbyterian Church, and now, I am excited to share with you that God is calling me to a new ministry opportunity. In September, I will relocate to Highlands, North Carolina, to serve as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Highlands. This news is both exciting and saddening for me. I have loved my time serving the city of Richmond and the campus of Virginia Commonwealth University alongside each of you. And while I may be sad, I can also rejoice. I rejoice because you all have shown me what the Good News means and looks like. I rejoice because you don't hesitate from new things—such as supporting our shower ministry, or cooking lunch for 50 students at the Pace Center! But most of all, I leave rejoicing that God's ministry for this wonderful congregation continues.

Roger Gench, Kate Fiedler, and I are working with Personnel to implement best practices moving forward for my job responsibilities. While this may look different than in years before, we trust that with transition comes ripe opportunity for change. And as always in ministry, we keep adapting. My final day with you all will be Sunday, September 3rd, and I hope we will be able to worship together one last time.

Again, I cannot thank you enough for the support over the last three years. I am a better Pastor because of our time together.

My cup overflows,

*Kelley*



## **Massanetta Middle School Conference**

Ava W, Frances C, Liam B, and Whitner L attended with Katherine G & Kate F

Ava shared, "One of my favorite Massanetta moments was getting to play the game Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza with Frances, Whitner, Kate, and Liam. It was always nice to eat meals together and getting to talk about our days with each other."



Liam said, "Massanetta is an experience like no other. From the amazing food to the enormous slip n' slide, it's quite memorable."

## **Montreat Music & Worship Conference**

2<sup>nd</sup>'s crew included:

Barbara B, Laura C & her sister Patrice, Terry C & Joe E, Kate F, Hannah G, Collyn & Michael H, Bunny Tai L, Elva M, Cherry P, Jeff R, Beth & Jim S, Kathy & Duane T, and Mary Jane W





## ***CEDEPCA Mission Partners trip to Guatemala***

Kitty B, Heidi C, Terry C, Kate F, Katherine G, Jon H, Dixon K, Kathleen M, January T, & Mary Jane W



## ***Montreat Youth Conference***

Liam B, Aaron C, Frances C, Benjamin L, and Whitner L, with Kelley C, Hannah G, Alexi H, Kate N



Aaron led worship, and he shared, "I enjoyed speaking on stage and hanging out with friends. I learned that going up to talk is more difficult than it looks but it helped me learn much about public speaking."



## ***Montreat Women's Connection Conference***

Julia A, Juliet F, Kate F, Elva M, Anne McD, Mairi R, Bailey S, and Katherine W





# Second Presbyterian Church OF RICHMOND VIRGINIA

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## Dated Material

### Do not delay delivery



Sunday,  
September 10th  
9:30am Meet in Courtyard  
11:00am Worship  
*BBQ Lunch after Worship*

Coffee and Tea Sales  
September 3 & 17  
*Coffee: \$9/bag*  
*Tea: \$5/box*



## Address Service Requested

September Preaching Schedule

September 3	Kelley Connelly
September 10	Kate Fiedler
September 17	Fred Holbrook
September 24	CEDEPCA/Guatemala Travel Team Members