



January 13, 2021

Second Press

A publication of Second Presbyterian Church
in Little Rock, Arkansas

Friends,

During the violence on Capitol Hill last week, I sent out a church-wide email with a Prayer for Our Nation. Many of you expressed appreciation for the prayer.

Several days have gone by and I commend to you a prayer for the nation's way forward. This prayer was written by Neal Presa, Moderator of the 220th General Assembly and board chair of the Presbyterian Foundation.

Christ's peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neal Presa', written in a cursive style.

*O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?*

*Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?*

*Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?*

*Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.*

*O Lord, I have heard of your renown,
and I stand in awe, O Lord, of your work.*

*In our own time revive it;
in our own time make it known;
in wrath may you remember mercy.*

— Habakkuk 1:2-4; 3:2-3

Holy and righteous God, our nation is simmering with violence, boiling over with anger and exploding in destructive words and deeds. Lord, hear our cry. Lord, plead our cause for justice. Help us as a nation and as a church to reckon with the truth—past sins that feed present-tense iniquities and that fuel future transgressions.

Forgive our politics, forgive our complicity.

Give us Jesus-sized wills and Holy Spirit-power to pray for our enemies—foreign and domestic—and to love neighbor and stranger because we know, God of our salvation, left on our own we cannot do it. Gird us with strong knees to kneel in fervent prayer, courageous hands and feet to challenge Pharaohs and Caesars who seek to subvert your love and the ways of your kingdom, and humble hearts confident in your providence that creates a beloved community from the stone and rubble of fallen empires, nations and systems.

Restrain evil and violence in a way that only you can. Intervene, Lord. Intrude into the world so that your justice will run like water and your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Grant us wisdom to discern your way, Spirit. Grant us courage to speak your Word of truth, God. Grant us your guiding light and shepherding presence for the facing of this sacred hour. Come, Lord Jesus, come soon!



We are currently receiving commitments to the 2021 annual stewardship campaign. We are off to a great start and have received estimates of giving and gifts totaling \$2,010,758.08. If you have not made your commitment, there are three ways you can turn in your Estimate of Giving card:

- Complete it online through our church's website at secondpreslr.org
- Mail it to the church
- Drop it off at the church office during the week

2021 Offering Envelopes Available

Those wishing to use weekly-dated envelopes may call the church office to make arrangements to pick them up.

Second Hall Virtual Advent Sunday School Class "Islam: A Brief Survey of Its Early History and Major Teachings" Sundays, January 3 – January 31, 9:30 a.m. Leader: Dr. Jim Hester

After the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001, Jim Hester decided to read the Qur'an. By 2018 he had read the Qur'an from cover-to-cover four times in as many translations and looked at related texts and studies of its history and teachings. That led to teaching three different courses on Islam and the Qur'an for the educational program sponsored by his retirement community. This course will survey the life of Muhammad and his major accomplishments. Then we'll turn to the Qur'an and introduce its major teachings and issues concerning its interpretation. Notes are available on the church website to anyone interested in plowing through pages and pages of pedantic prose! Please contact Jeannie Ford, jeannieford@secondpreslr.org if you need a printed copy of the information.

First and Third Monday Morning Women's Bible Study

All women are invited to join for a "new semester" of study and fellowship beginning Monday, January 18 at 9:30 a.m. We will reflect on the New Year and will decide on a new topic for our next round of study. Please contact Jeannie Ford if you have questions or would like to join this group, jeannieford@secondpreslr.org.

Give Online to Support the

Ministries of Second Presbyterian Church

You now have the opportunity to support the ministries of Second Presbyterian Church through online giving. Visit secondpreslr.org/giving to contribute to the Annual Budget, the Second Vision Capital Campaign, make a Memorial Gift or Birthday Fund contribution.

Cheeses with Jesus

This is a group for adults, between youngish and retirement. We start with a time of fellowship & sharing, then have Bible study. We will be meeting the second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. For information, contact Catherine Allsbury, catherineallsbury@secondpreslr.org.



Worships Here

We are the church. Wherever we live, pray, serve, and worship, we are the church. Therefore, we are marking our homes, our worship spaces, with yard signs which read: "Second Presbyterian Worships Here." This message in your front yard declares the church is at work—God is at work—wherever we are. You can pick up an easy-install sign by the front office, or request that a sign be installed in your front yard. Just contact the front office with your request. Feel free to send your at-home sign photos to Sharon Howard as we stay connected while we are distanced.



Welcome Emily Coffey



It is with great joy that we welcome Emily Coffey as the new part-time Interim Director of Young Adult Ministry! This position is ten hours a week and one that has essential functions to minister to and with our young adults. Jen Evans, Associate Pastor for Youth, Young Adults, and Families with Young Children is thrilled to have Emily as a teammate!

Emily was born and raised in northwest Georgia and has been a proud Presbyterian her whole life. She studied at Hendrix College and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She became a member of Second Presbyterian Church in 2015 and has served on the Young Adult Ministry for several years. Emily has fond memories of worshipping at Montreat, working at a PCUSA summer camp, and can remember more than her fair share of Vacation Bible School songs. She is excited to connect with other young adults in the church and help them feel more connected to their faith and the Second Presbyterian family. When she isn't doing church-related activities, Emily helps high school students apply to college, takes her scruffy pup Moxie on walks with her husband, and crochets while watching her latest TV show obsession.

Second Readers January 20, 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn is a 1943 beloved American semi autobiographical, classic novel by Betty Smith.

The story focuses on an impoverished but aspirational adolescent girl and her family living in Williamsburg, New York city during the first two decades of the twentieth century. The main metaphor of the book is the hardy Tree of Heaven whose persistence to grow and flourish even in the inner city mirrors the protagonist's desire to better herself.

The Year of the Bible

Everyone is invited to participate in an exciting opportunity to read the entire Bible in one year. This will not be an in-depth Bible study, but an opportunity to read through the Bible and join with others for reflection and discussion. There will be a Zoom gathering on the last Sunday of each month for those who would like to participate in group discussion.

Daily readings are scheduled to begin on January 1. Curriculum is available to provide a guide to daily readings from the Old and New Testaments that will take you through the whole Bible during the year and will provide questions for reflection that can be used individually or with a group. If you would like to purchase a book and participate please contact Jeannie Ford, jeannieford@secondpreslr.org.



Moms Book Club

Are you a mom who is covered in lunchboxes, carpools, and crazy schedules? You aren't alone. Consider joining our Moms Book Club as we read *Raising White Kids* by Jennifer Harvey. It is time to begin a new book so now is the perfect time to join! We will read slowly through a book together to strengthen our faith while helping us parent. For more information, contact Dania Edwards, daniaedwards@secondpreslr.org.

Family Fellowship

You can expect small gathering meetups, Bingo, virtual family games, and seemingly a new surprise every month. For more information, contact Dania Edwards, daniaedwards@secondpreslr.org.

Dads Gatherings

Bi-weekly, 8:00 p.m.

Attention dads! Since we can't gather in person to test our wit and skill at trivia, we would still like to offer the guys a chance to get together and solve the world's problems. So, order a pizza and hop on Zoom for an hour to catch up with your buds. For more information, contact Dania Edwards, daniaedwards@secondpreslr.org.

Moms 'Whine' Night Gatherings

Bi-weekly, 8:00 p.m.

Things are tough. We get it. Let's get through it together. Hop on and vent your frustrations, share your struggles, or just catch up with your friends and enjoy some non-work, non-kid interaction. For more information, contact Dania Edwards, daniaedwards@secondpreslr.org.

'Family helps Family' Offerings

This group of offerings consist of the parenting workshops, videos of us reading various books, giving video challenges to families, podcast recommendations or other means of ongoing support that we give parents and families as they seek to grow in faith together and as we grow together as a community of faith. For more information, contact Jen Evans, jenevans@secondpreslr.org.

Missed a Sermon?

Did you miss one of the sermons? If so, you can listen to recent sermons on the church website at secondpreslr.org. Click on "Worship and Music," then click on "Listen to Recent Sermons." To receive a copy of a sermon either by e-mail or regular mail, contact Karin Howze, karinhowze@secondpreslr.org or (501) 227-0000.



A Ministry of Compassion and Connection

Comfort for Your Journey

Second Presbyterian understands grief and loss, offering several different ways to support individuals and families. In addition to direct care from a pastor, our Stephen Ministers are well-equipped to journey with individuals in a confidential way through that desert of grief. Our Caregiver Support Group brings together the honest questions and gracious wisdom of family members caring for a loved one with dementia. Also, we partner with Faith & Grief Ministries for grief support groups, book studies and workshops. Upcoming gatherings are listed here. Free resources are available on their website.

Here are ways to join loving, supportive grief groups during this time when we cannot share hugs with one another. Please register at www.faithandgrief.org to receive instructions. Participation is free. Jo Ann McQuade and Chris Herring are Second Pres ministry team leaders.

Grief Support Groups

Support groups gather online at various mid-day or evening times throughout the week. Register at www.faithandgrief.org. You will gather online in a safe, loving environment with participants from all over, facilitated by grief support experts.

Good Grief Book Discussions

Join us each month online as we read and discuss suggested books about grief. Register for the Zoom link at www.faithandgrief.org.

Traveling Solo, but Never Alone: Surviving and Thriving After the Death of a Spouse

by Bill Harrison

When my wife passed away four days before Christmas in 2017 I was devastated. Mary and I had a challenging, exciting and adventurous life together for over 53 years, traveling the globe and finding success in a number of careers. But suddenly she was gone. I had lost my identity and purpose. I cried out: "What now, Lord?" "Why am I still here?" "What do you have in store for me now?"

Thursday, January 28, 6:30 p.m.

What Would Jesus Brew?

What would Jesus brew? (WWJB) is the bi-monthly Bible study hosted by the young adult community. Adults of all ages are invited to gather (virtually) at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month to explore the scriptures for the coming Sunday (as designated by the lectionary). Contact Emily Coffey for more information, emilycoffey@secondpreslr.org.

Members Staying Connected While Distanced

Inspired by God's love toward us, we continue to care for one another, even while we are physically distanced. We need volunteers for our Penpal and Phone Friend Ministry. We're asking for a 6-month commitment which you can opt to renew later. This Care Team matches members and households with one or more member/households for regular contact. This might be as simple as a notecard or children's artwork mailed to an isolated member every few weeks. Or it might be a regular check-in phone call. You could write a short note to say, "I prayed for you today. Is there anything specific you'd like for me to pray for? Here's my number."

We've had young families with children as a penpal family for a retired member living alone. We've had single adults regularly calling a short list of members for a friendly, caring check-in. This is a great way for all ages and stages to care for one another, supported by our various care ministries.

We ask for a 6-month commitment to contact 1-5 named households routinely, letting us know when needs arise (like a forthcoming surgery or a new grandchild). We'll try to match you with people in your network where possible. If you love it and want to renew after 6 months, guess what, you can! If you discover that your connected households want to do a Zoom Coffee Hour, you can! If you and your connected households want to sponsor a care package to, say, Ferncliff staff, you can! If you need to keep it simple to stay connected – you can! We want to knit caring members together in meaningful ways. To join this ministry, please contact Care Team Lead Rebecca Cate or the office.

Those Serving Our Country

Andrew Delo, Jeanne Lloyd's grandson – stationed in Charleston, SC

Taylor Douglas, son of Susan & Kevin Douglas – San Diego, CA

Jackson Hudkins, son of Jay Hudkins and Becky Latch – Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO

Greer Johnson, daughter of Cory and Stephanie Johnson, granddaughter of Kelly & Judy Johnson – Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO

Jonathan Johnson, grandson of Helen Scott, nephew of Clarke & Cindy Scott Huisman – stationed at Fallon, NV

Daniel Jones, Marjorie Watkins' nephew, Sarah Ceja's cousin – stationed in August, GA

Jonathan Miller, son of Patrice & Stan Miller – stationed in Fallon, NV

Kyle Rought, Mary Ibis' cousin – stationed in Wahiawa, HI

Jesse Smith, nephew of Diane Karlson – stationed in California

John Matthew Solomon, son of Mary Margaret & Alan Solomon – stationed at Fort Meade, MD

Kevin Truslow, stationed in Sumter, South Carolina

Presbyterians in the Press

Allison Mundy Receives Scholarship



Church member and Lyon College senior Allison Mundy has received the 2020 Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers Scholarship. The Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers Scholarship benefits a full-time student pursuing a major or minor in biology, with preference given to students whose cumulative grade point average (GPA) is 3.0 or higher and who participate in the Arkansas Game and Fish Stream Team.

Allison is majoring in biology. She worked with her lab partner Olivia Echols and Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Allyn Dodd this summer to research the impact local poultry houses have on the water quality in the Eleven Point and Black River watersheds.

She is an Honors Fellow and a member of Social Council, the Presbyterian Student Association, the Alpha Xi Delta sorority and the Alpha Chi and Mortar Board honor societies.

Dr. Dodd said the Lyon biology professors nominate a student who meets the selection criteria, with preference given to members of the Arkansas Stream Team. “We nominated Allison because she has worked tirelessly for the last two years,” Dodd said, “to help the public understand what is happening to macroinvertebrate communities under pressure from new poultry agriculture.”

Allison plans to attend medical school after graduation. She was active in our SPY program and is now an active member of our church college student program.

Permanent Ongoing Sunday School Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

The Bible Study Class meets each Sunday during the calendar year in the church library. During these trying times, the Bible Study Class will be meeting via Zoom. If you are ready to dig into the Word of God and discuss topics that really feed the mind and soul then the Bible Study Class is for you. Lead Teacher is Graham Catlett and substitutes are Phillip and Chris Boggs, and Carol Williams. Please contact Chris Boggs if you would like to join the class.

The Seeking More Light Class will continue to meet each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and will study *Home by Another Way*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. Class participants are encouraged to order this book on an individual basis. For Zoom information please contact Greg Adams.

The Spiritual Nourishment Class is studying *The Kingdom Within* by John Sanford. Participants in this class pray together and encourage one another to discern the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. For zoom information contact Nancy Hicks or Janet Carson.

The Connections Class is designed for adults ages 20 to 40ish every Sunday morning to discuss life, family, current events, and everything in the middle. It is resourced by Jen Evans and planned as a community. We discuss, learn, and grow together as we seek to live more faithfully...none of us are “experts” but we all have stories to share as we discuss our lives in the larger narrative of God’s story. For more information contact Jen Evans, jenevans@secondpreslr.org.



STEPHEN
MINISTRY

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
– Hebrews 10:24

You Saw Her Again Today

“She’s going through such a hard time,” you thought. “Too bad no one is there for her.”

But Second Presbyterian Church can be there for her.

A Stephen Minister would like to visit, listen, and care for your friend.

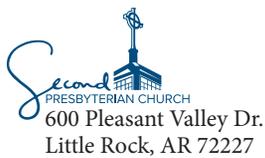
If you are going through a tough time and could use a caring friend, Second Presbyterian Church is a Stephen Ministry congregation. We provide confidential Christian caregiving to hurting people. To find out more about Stephen Ministry or to receive a Stephen Minister’s care, call Associate Pastor Alisa Secrest, (501) 227-0000. Pastor Alisa will work with you to decide if Stephen Ministry will be a good fit for you and your unique situation.

You Can Recycle Your #5 Plastics at Second!

There are some plastics that we can recycle at church that we can’t place in our Waste Management rollout carts at home— #5 Plastics! You are welcome to bring your clean, #5 plastics in a small clear or light colored bag, and place them inside the Natural State Recycling container. Please remember that while our church recycling company would like our items bagged, don’t bag your items in your WM cart at home! Some of the #5 items you can include are yogurt and sour cream containers, medicine bottles, and many take-out containers. Just look for the recycling symbol on the bottom of the container indicating that it is made of #5 polypropylene plastic.

Our complete church recycling program includes mixed paper, flattened cardboard, steel and aluminum cans and plastics #1, #2, and #5. Feel free to contact Ann Owen with any questions.





Office: (501) 227-0000
Fax: (501) 227-6513
Care/Concern: (501) 227-6117
www.secondpreslr.org

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LITTLE ROCK AR
PERMIT #1744

PASTOR
Rev. Steve Hancock

ASSOCIATE PASTORS
Rev. Alisa Secrest
Rev. Lindy Vogado
Rev. Jen Evans

PARISH ASSOCIATE
Dr. Robert Williamson

CHURCH EDUCATOR
Jeannie Ford

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY
Ruth Amensen

**DIRECTOR OF FAMILIES WITH
YOUNG CHILDREN MINISTRY**
Dania Edwards

**INTERIM DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**
Grant Wright

**INTERIM DIRECTOR OF
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**
Emily Coffey

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ARTS
Dr. Bevan Keating

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Mary Ibis

9 O'CLOCK MUSIC COORDINATOR
Sarah Jane Guzman

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
Aileen Moore

DIRECTOR OF PLANNED GIVING
Malinda Kirchner

NEWCOMER CARE
Catherine Allsbury

FACILITIES MANAGER
David Beach

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATES
Karin Howze
Tracy May
Sharon Howard
Adam Savacool

FOOD SERVICE MANAGER
Brenda Majors

CHILD CARE COORDINATOR
Karin Howze

SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR
Ann Owen

SEXTONS
Guy Howze
Carrie Johnson

SUNDAY ONLINE WORSHIP
Available beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Newsletter articles may be
e-mailed to:
adamsavacool@secondpreslr.org

UPCOMING DEADLINES:
Thursday, January 11
Thursday, February 4



facebook.com/
SecondPresbyterianChurch

Bulletin Board

Hospitalized (*Discharged) *Cindy Edwards, Sarah Jane Guzman, *Dawson Ibis, *Presley Jackson, *George Keck, Charlie Lynch

Our sympathy goes to Tom Cox on the death of his wife, Pat Cox; Janie and Howard Hopkins on the death of Janie's sister, Patricia Patterson Jones.

We would appreciate your help . . . in keeping the church office informed when there is a sickness in your family, when someone is in the hospital, or a death has occurred. Please also keep us updated on the sickness or concern so that the information we have on our Care and Concern Line is accurate. Members and friends can call the Care and Concern Line, (501) 227-6117, on weekdays to receive information about prayer concerns in our church family. We will honor all requests for confidentiality, but in order for us to offer pastoral care we need to be aware of your situation. We also want to know about the joys, accomplishments and achievements of members of the church. Please call Alisa Secrest or Sharon Howard in the church office with information, (501) 227-0000, or e-mail alisasecrest@secondpreslr.org or sharonhoward@secondpreslr.org. Thanks for your help!

Heritage Committee Seeks Second Presbyterian Memorabilia

Do you have old certificates, bulletins, newsletters, programs, or other documents for earlier days of our church? Our Heritage Committee would like to copy such to help fill in some of the gaps in our church records. Please contact Pam Luther, (501) 690-5203.



Second Gifts
FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW
Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

Please prayerfully consider including our Church in your estate plans. Your gift will support our ministries for many years past your lifetime. Our legal name is: Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, Arkansas