Second Presbyterian Church to Reopen for Indoor Worship on Sunday, June 6

Dear Friends,

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus to be a pandemic. That same week, Second Presbyterian Church made the decision to suspend in-person worship services and to limit access to the church building.

It has been quite a year.

The church has extended Christ’s love and care to those who have lost loved ones, and those who have been sick. We have sought to respond with compassion to the isolation and loneliness many have experienced in this time.

Along the way, we shifted a good deal of the church’s programmatic life to an online format. In youth group meetings and Sunday school classes, in worship and Bible study, in fellowship opportunities and through glorious music, we have made good on our pandemic slogan: “The building is closed, but the church is open.”

Thankfully, the finish line is in sight. **On Sunday, June 6, Second Presbyterian Church will reopen for worship.**

The Re-Opening the Church Task Force (Bolton Kirchner, Catherine Lowry, Craig Wilson, Eileen Ellis, Jane Miers, Kim Reynolds, Patty Bates-Abraham, Steve Hancock) has been scrutinizing the most current scientific data, governmental regulations and guidelines, and best practices for churches. Our clear goal is to reopen Second Church in as safe and smart a manner as possible. The task force and church staff are putting the finishing touches on comprehensive safety procedures and protocols, and that document will be shared with you soon.

The June 6 reopening date is not set in stone. That is, if the numbers of COVID cases, hospitalizations, and deaths should rapidly increase, or if for some reason vaccines do not continue to be widely available, our target date/plans could change. But for now, we are aiming for June 6 as the day to return to the precious sacred space that is our church home at 600 Pleasant Valley Drive.

Christ’s peace,

Steve Hancock
Pastor/Head of Staff
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.

Short Term Sunday School Class
“Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi”
Sundays, April 11 – May 16
9:30 a.m. on Zoom

Rabbi Gene Levy will kick off this Bible study series based on Amy-Jill Levine’s book and video series. Levine analyzes and illuminates Jesus’ parables, taking readers back in time to understand how the original Jewish audience heard the stories. Come and find out how the parables are not just about Jesus, but are also about us and how they still challenge and provoke us two thousand years later. All are invited to reconsider several familiar parables and discover how challenging these stories can be for us today. “What makes the parables mysterious, or difficult,” Levine writes, “is that they challenge us to look into the hidden aspects of our own values, our lives.”

Leaders: Rabbi Gene Levy, Rev. Lindy Vogado, Dr. Robert Williamson

Presbyterian Women
Tuesday, April 13, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

All women are invited to join this gathering for fellowship, worship, and study! As we continue our Into the Light Bible study we welcome special guest leaders Grant Wright and Jocelyn Wildhack. Grant is our Interim Director of Children’s Ministries and Jocelyn is Chaplain and Camp Director at Ferncliff. They will lead us in exploring Lesson Seven: Creation Laments—an opportunity to ponder creation and listen for God’s call to us as stewards of the beauty around us.

Cheeses with Jesus

Cheeses With Jesus is an adult group. We are all about food & fellowship, study & service. In April we will be meeting in Second Hall, on campus, at 7:30 p.m. Masking, social distancing and health checks will be enforced, per church policy. We will be finalizing our plans for, cooking a Friday evening meal for Our House. Contact Catherine Allsburry for more information, catherineallsbury@secondpreslr.org.

Second Readers
April 21, 3:00 p.m. on Zoom

Love and Ruin by Paula McLain brings to life the story of Martha Gellhorn, a fiercely independent and ambitious woman ahead of her time, who would become one of the greatest war correspondents of the twentieth century. She was the only woman to land at Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. The Martha Gellhorn Prize for Journalism named after her was established in 1999. Gellhorn travelled to Madrid in 1937 to report on the atrocities of the Spanish Civil War and became drawn to the stories of ordinary people caught in this devastating conflict. There she found herself unexpectedly and unwillingly falling in love and eventually marrying Ernest Hemingway, a man on his way to becoming a legend. Contact Jeannie Ford for more information, jeannieford@secondpreslr.org.

Young Adults

Young Adult Game Night
April 10, 7:30 p.m.
We will play lawn games together if the weather cooperates!

Young Adult Picnic Crew
April 25, 6:00 p.m. at MacArthur Park
Now that our winter hibernation is over, let’s take advantage of the beautiful weather. Bring a lawn chair and picnic dinner to enjoy with your young adult pals from a safe social distance!

Contact Emily Coffey for more details, emilycoffey@secondpreslr.org.
Presbyterians in the Press

Director of Historic Arkansas Museum
Stephanie Haught Wade has been named as the new director of Historic Arkansas Museum, an agency of Arkansas Heritage. She has been a historic with the Department of Arkansas Heritage since 2017, where she managed the Arkansas Historical Marker Program and was a member and administrator of the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commemoration Committee.

Stephanie, daughter of church members, Julie and Bill Haught, grew up in our church. She and her husband, John, have three children, Delia, Cogan and Dixon, who have all been confirmed in our church.

She holds a B.A. in political science and an M.A. in history from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. After graduation, she worked at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History.

“We look forward to Stephanie’s leadership at HAM,” said Department of Heritage Director, Jimmy Bryant. “Her work will continue the fine legacy of its Arkansas Made Collection, storied knife gallery, and wonderful living history programming.”

Hendrix College Murphy Scholar
Corissa Ross has been named by Hendrix College as one the 32 Murphy Scholars for the class of 2024. Murphy Scholars explore literature and language at a more intensive level by participating in designated study, travel, research, and service experiences in literature and language during their sophomore, junior, and senior years at Hendrix. All Murphy Scholars will graduate with distinction, having completed an Oxord-style tutorial course in language and literature and three of the Murphy Scholar Program’s approved co-curricular experiences in literature and language.

Corissa grew up in our church and was active in our Children’s, Youth and Music Ministries. Her proud family includes parents, Mattie and Ashley III; grandparents, Elisa and Ashley; and siblings, Davis, Amelia and Lila Jane Ross.

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, karinhowsn@secondpreslr.org or (501) 227-0000.

2021 Family Retreat
Our 2021 Families with Young Children Ministry Family Retreat will be held Saturday, April 24 at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

We will remain outdoors for the event, observe social distancing, and respectfully ask at you bring masks for the safety of everyone. Families with children of all ages are encouraged to attend. There is no cost for this event, and we ask that you bring a lunch for your family.

We look forward to seeing you all and spending some time in nature together! Register online at secondpreslr.org.

Grief Support Gatherings
Join routine support gatherings on Zoom to listen to a speaker and share with one another, if you wish. Upcoming gatherings are Thursday, April 15 at noon or Tuesday, April 20 at 6:00 p.m.

Grief Memoir Book Club
Monthly book club gatherings focus on grief memoirs, helping our own grief heal. The April 22 book club selection is Widowish by Melissa Gould. The group meets at 6:30 p.m.

Faith and Grief Workshop
Sundays, April 18 – June 6, 8:00 p.m.
Each workshop session explores sacred stories related to grief, sharing stories in small group discussions and introduces spiritual practices designed to promote comfort in grief. This eight-session workshop is hosted online.

Please note the upcoming gatherings designed for processing grief in the eyes of faith. These gatherings require registration at www.faithandgrief.org where you will also receive a Zoom link.
Thank You

Dear Church,

For seventeen and a half weeks my oldest, Dawson, was at Arkansas Children’s Hospital with gastrointestinal challenges. He had multiple surgeries and procedures. At one point we were very unsure if he would ever leave the hospital again. It was a most challenging time for all of us, dark days indeed.

Through your prayers, cards, calls, texts, email messages, drive way visits, and even a few pizza deliveries, we were surrounded by your love and care. I am so incredibly grateful to you. I do not know how people can survive hard times such as these without a community of faith to support them.

The Bible tells us we are the hands and feet of Christ. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus to me in these past few months, and even more, these last nineteen and a half years that I’ve been honored to walk with you.

Gratefully,
Mary Ibis

Watch a Movie for Earth Day!

The Environmental Stewardship Committee, soon to be the Environmental Ministry, invites all church members and friends to watch a movie in the safety of your own homes, as a way to celebrate Earth Day 2021.

*Kiss the Ground* is a documentary, based on the book by Josh Tickell. It’s about food choices, trees as natural carbon sinks, and more. It is a free, fun, fast-paced 84-minute movie, asking:

What’s the relationship between soil health, human health, and the health of our planet?

The movie is sponsored by Interfaith Power and Light. Our Arkansas chapter has received a grant to give the first 30 congregations in Arkansas a $75 mini grant.

You can watch the film anytime April 10-26.

Sign up to watch the *Kiss the Ground* documentary at secondplesr.org.

First and Third Monday Morning Women’s Bible Study

The Sermon on the Mount tells us what we need to do in order to have one foot in the kingdom of heaven. More than that, it tells us that this kingdom is already available to us, already manifested when we enact God’s will on earth as it is done in heaven. In this six-session study based on Matthew 5-7, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine explores the major topics in the most popular sermon ever delivered, providing historical and theological context and using knowledge of Hebrew Scriptures and moral teachings.

Books have been ordered and will be available for pick up at the church or can be ordered from Amazon. The cost is $14.00. Please contact Jeannie Ford, jeannieford@secondpreslr.org for more information.

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.

Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group

Are you caring for a loved one with dementia—perhaps a parent or a spouse? You are invited to our twice monthly Caregiver Support Group, designed for family members caring for a loved one with dementia. Support group meetings are the first and third Thursday of each month at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. For more information, contact Jo Ann McQuade, Janet Nelson or Alisa Secrest.
Are You Experiencing Pandemic Fatigue?

Are you feeling exhausted from all the disruptions to life brought on by the pandemic? Are you or someone you know struggling with challenges like . . .

- Isolation and loneliness;
- Anxiety over health;
- Grief due to many different kinds of losses;
- Tension from juggling work, childcare, and schooling;
- Financial strain or job loss;
- Uncertainty about the future; or
- Other unexpected life challenges?

If so, you don’t have to face it alone. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately—by phone, by video chat, or, if safely possible, in person—to offer care and support. It’s free and completely confidential. For more information, please contact Alisa Secrest, alisasecrest@secondpreslr.org.

Stephen Ministry is one to one, lay, Christian caregiving provided to individuals who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. If you or someone you know is hurting, please contact us for more information.

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.

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

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 Days of Awe and Wonder by Marcus Borg, beginning Sunday, February 21.

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.
Caring for One Another...Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is one-to-one lay Christian caregiving provided to individuals in our church and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

A Stephen Minister listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages their care receiver in a confidential relationship.

Even during the pandemic, Stephen Ministers continue to meet with their care receivers through telecare options or in socially distanced outdoor settings.

If this is a painful time for you or someone you know (18 years or older), please consider contacting any of our Stephen Leaders, Stephen Ministers or Pastors for more information about how to request care.

Stephen Ministry Leaders

Kay Combs  Cathy Crass  Steve Dunnagan  Rich Evans

Jo Ann McQuade  Jana Villemez  Rita Wooley

Stephen Ministers

Syd Adams  Pam Babb  Ed Barham  Jon Davies  Cheryl Denson  Sharon Downs

Kim Dunnagan  Emily Hall  Adele Holmes  Diane Holt  Woody Jolley

Marge Anna Luttrell  Peggy Marshall  Bob McCarley  Ann Stroud  Barbara Vaught  Chris Villemez
Sunday Online Worship Service
Available beginning at 8:30 a.m. at secondpreslr.org

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

Business Administrator
Aileen Moore

Director of Planned Giving
Malinda Kirchner

Newcomer Care
Catherine Allsburry

Facilities Manager
David Beach

Administrative Associates
Karín Howze
Tracy May
Sharon Howard
Adam Savacool

Food Service Manager
Brenda Majors

Child Care Coordinator
Karín Howze

Sustainability Coordinator
Ann Owen

Sextons
Guy Howze
Carrie Johnson

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Bulletin Board


Our sympathy goes to George and Nancy Gann, John Gann and Lauren Gann, on the death of George’s father, John W. Gann, Sr.; Joe and Pat Luzzi on the death of Joe’s brother, Ernest Gene Luzzi.

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.

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

Upcoming Deadlines:
Wednesday, April 28
Wednesday, May 26