COVID Vaccine: It’s Time to Roll Up Our Sleeves and Get Vaccinated!

Dear Friends,

As you know from previous announcements, we will resume indoor worship at Second Presbyterian Church on Sunday, June 6. We are looking forward to the opportunity to worship together with joyful and hopeful hearts.

While receiving your COVID-19 vaccination is not a requirement to attend worship, we strongly encourage everyone to do so. The COVID-19 vaccination is one of the strongest tools we can use to fight this pandemic together.

Getting vaccinated adds one more layer of protection for you, your family, and for your friends and neighbors. Here are some things you should know about the COVID-19 vaccination:

- All COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States are very effective at preventing the disease.
- The most common side effects are pain the arm where you got the shot, feeling tired, headache, body aches, chills and fever. These normally subside within 24-48 hours.
- Stopping the pandemic requires using all the tools we have available—wearing masks, social distancing, washing hands frequently and getting vaccinated.

We want the pandemic to be over. We want to feel safe at home, at school, at work, at church, and in our community. We all play a part in this effort. Vaccines are now widely available in Arkansas, and if you haven’t done so already, I encourage you to sign up and get vaccinated.

When asked what the greatest commandment is, Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with your soul, and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.”

Getting vaccinated is a specific and practical way you can love yourself and love your neighbor. I urge you to do so.

Christ’s peace,

[Signature]
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.

Meet the New Summer Intern
Hello! My name is Natalie Aikman and I am from Russellville, Arkansas where I grew up attending Central Presbyterian Church. I am currently attending Hendrix College where I am a Psychology major and a Religious Studies minor. I have a radio show called "Chaotic Neutral" on Thursday nights where I pick out fun playlists and have fun conversations with my co-host. When I am not in school, I love to travel, work on my embroidery skills, hammock, lift weights, listen to music, play with dogs, and find hole-in-the-wall food joints. From debating in high school, I acquired a love for teaching youth how to find their voices so they can effectively communicate their passions and concerns. I am looking forward to being touched by the hearts of the youth and congregation at Second Presbyterian Church this summer.

Natalie will begin May 14 and we are excited about having her part of the team.

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.”

May 9: Rabbi Gene Levy
May 16: Beth Sigler

Congratulations!
LaWanda Harris graduated with a Master of Divinity from the University of Dubuque (IA) on May 1, 2021. LaWanda served as Pastoral Intern here at Second Presbyterian Church in the fall of 2020. During her time at Second, she participated in Christ’s ministry through the worship, pastoral care, belonging and fellowship ministries. She worked closely with Rev. Alisa Secrest, her supervisor. As she seeks a call, she continues to serve her home church, Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church, Little Rock. She also works as a registered nurse for Arkansas Hospice. Please join us in celebrating LaWanda’s seminary graduation. Let’s surround her in prayer for her future ministry.

Back by popular demand!
Summer Reading Series
Members of the Adult Education Ministry are once again preparing for a fun summer reading activity by selecting a few of their favorite books to share. Participants are invited to read the book and to gather for a brief recap/review, questions, and discussion. Our first gathering (June 13) will be on Zoom and we will determine as we continue whether we gather in person or stay on Zoom. If you like to read and enjoy an opportunity to talk about your reading, please plan to be part of one or all of these “summer book club” events.

June 13 (3:00 pm on Zoom)
Beth Sigler will lead a discussion on This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger.

July 11
Chuck Chappell will lead a discussion on The Color Purple by Alice Walker.

August 15
Vernon Markham will lead discussion on a book to be revealed soon.
Livestream Technicians Needed

Are you excited, like many of us, to get back to in person worship on June 6? Do you have an aptitude for computers? Then do we have an opportunity for you! As part of the Second Vision Capital Campaign, we started putting together the equipment to livestream our Sunday morning service. The pandemic accelerated our timeline a bit as we pivoted to virtual worship. Now is the time to pivot back to our original goal of livestreaming the Sunday morning 11:00 a.m. worship service instead of the current pre-record/produce model we use. To make the stream happen, we are in need of a handful of folks willing to take on a Sunday morning every month (or so) to operate the buttons for the livestream. For more information or to volunteer, contact Sam Byrd.

Cheeses With Jesus

On May 12 members will be working at several homes to prepare the meal we will provide to Our House on May 14. This is the meal on the second Friday that Second Presbyterian Church has traditionally provided each month.

On May 26 we will be meeting off campus, in person. COVID-19 precautions will be observed.

Journey...cont

This study group continues to meet at noon on Thursdays. We will be continuing our discussion of the book Lifesigns, by Henri J.M. Nouwen. We are meeting via Zoom.

Your Outreach Dollars at Work!

Thanks to your generosity during our annual stewardship campaign, our congregation will be giving over $575,000 to entities and organizations outside of our church this year. Our Outreach ministry has met several times this spring to review applications, and we have awarded grants to over 35 organizations in our community including Stewpot, Presbyterian Village, Habitat for Humanity, Shepherd’s Hope Medical Clinic, St. Francis House, Ferncliff, and Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services.

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

Second Readers
May 19, 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.

Faith Support Gatherings
Join routine support gatherings on Zoom to listen to a speaker and share with one another, if you wish. Day and evening times are available.

Grief Memoir Book Club
Monthly book club gatherings focus on grief stories, helping our own grief heal. The June 17 book selection is Passed & Present: Keeping Memories of Loved Ones Alive by Allison Gilbert. The group meets at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Passed and Present is not about sadness and grieving—it is about happiness and remembering. It is possible to look forward, to live a rich and joyful life, while keeping the memory of loved ones alive.

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.

Faith & Grief
A Ministry of Compassion and Connection

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.

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.
**Presbyterians in the Press**  
**Champions of Hope**

Champions of Hope is a program that provides young men an opportunity to serve as representatives for Centers of Youth and Families and develop leadership skills. Second Pres youth, Charlie Henry (far right), participated in the program of community service with local organizations that address social issues such as foster care, mental illness and human trafficking. The young men experience the value of community service and the difference it makes in the welfare of other Arkansans. [https://www.invitingarkansas.com/issues/](https://www.invitingarkansas.com/issues/)

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**Third Grade Bibles!**

Congratulations to our third graders who received their Bibles at the Family Retreat! They explored scripture and how to use their Bibles—so excited to walk with them as we all continue to explore scripture together.

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**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.

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**Presbyterian Women May Gathering**

All women are invited to join our last Zoom gathering for this year on Tuesday, May 11 at 10:00 a.m. At our May gathering we will celebrate the birthday of Presbyterian Women by receiving a special offering, install our 2021-22 Coordinating Team and leaders, and complete our study of Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament.

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**Families with Young Children Mission Day**  
**Rescheduled due to weather**

Join Families with Young Children’s Ministry for an afternoon of giving back as we learn what it means to serve others! In the Church front parking lot. Email Dania Edwards to RSVP. daniaedwards@secondpreslr.org

**Family Hike**  
**Saturday, May 8, 9:30 a.m.**

Join Families with Young Children Ministry for a family hike on the Bufflehead Bay Trail in Roland, AR. It is 2.3 miles. The trailhead is off HWY 10 in Roland. Meet at the trailhead at 9:30am. Contact Dania Edwards with questions. daniaedwards@secondpreslr.org

**Moms Backyard Meetup**  
**May 21, 7:00 p.m.**

Come and meet up with some other moms to catch up and relax for the evening! Socially distanced in the Edwards backyard. Please RSVP to Dania Edwards. daniaedwards@secondpreslr.org
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.

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. *This group is paused from May-August. It will resume in September.*

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.

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.
Families With Young Children Retreat

_Families with Young Children Ministry_ had a great time at our retreat this year at Ferncliff. The retreat was centered around storytelling and spiritual practices and we all connected through faith, fun, and fellowship!

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**Summer Children’s Programs at Second**

**Playdate Pop-Ups**
*Dates/Times TBD, weekly*
For ages completed Kindergarten through completed 5th grades
Cost, FREE!

**June 7-11 (Monday-Friday)**
_VBS Minis, ages 2-6 (completed Kindergarten)_
A parent or guardian must accompany the participant (s). Siblings are welcome.
Outdoors, in the prayer garden (weather permitting).
Monday-Friday, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Cost, $5 per child

**July 26-30 (Monday-Friday)**
_Bell Boot Camp, grades K-12_
Bells galore and MORE! This camp will be a great kick-start to fall music programming.
Grades will be divided: younger and older elementary, middle school, and high school.
Monday-Friday, 8:30-11:30 a.m., optional late pick-up until 3:30 p.m.
Cost, $25 per participant
There will be an additional cost for late pick-up.

**August 1-5 (Sunday-Thursday)**
_VBS, completed K-4th grades/rising 1st-5th grades_
VBS games, stories, and more! Keep an eye out for more information to follow.
Sunday-Thursday, 5:30-8:00 p.m.
Cost, FREE!

**August 9-13 (Monday-Friday)**
_Summer Music & Arts Camp (SMAC)_
Orff, Dance, Art, and more. Join us for music (and sometime mess) making fun!
Monday-Friday, 8:30-11:30 a.m., optional late pick-up until 3:30 p.m.
Cost, $25 per participant
There will be an additional cost for late pick-up.

Registration will open on our church website for most programs/camps beginning **Thursday, May 13**. Please contact Mary Lbis, marylibis@secondpreslr.org, for more information.
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 Allsbury

Facilities Manager
David Beach

Administrative Associates
Karin Howze
Tracy May
Sharon Howard
Carrie Johnson

Food Service Manager
Brenda Majors

Child Care Coordinator
Karin Howze

Sustainability Coordinator
Ann Owen

Sextons
Guy Howze
Carrie Johnson

Bulletin Board


We celebrate with Dana Bodenner and Reese Lancaster who were married on April 24; Audrey Ray and Bryan Dillahunty who were married on April 23. Audrey is the daughter of Marge Anna Luttrell and the granddaughter of Joanne Mosley; Grant Beach and Casey Reed who were married on April 2. Parents of the groom are David and Kristen Beach.

We rejoice with Joanne Riddick on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Harper Julianne; Chris and Lisa Ring on the birth of a granddaughter, Linley Dear Ring. Parents are Taylor and Austin Ring.

Our sympathy goes to Barrett and Robert Feltus on the death of Barrett’s father, Harry “Erle” Rawlins, III; Eugene and June Jones on the death of Eugene’s mother, Norma Ruth Jones; Anne Crow on the death of her cousin’s wife, Mary Jane Burge; Guy and Karin Howze, David and Kristin Beach, on the death of Guy and Kristin’s father, Guy Howze, Sr.; Blanche and Steve Lincoln on the death of Blanche’s mother, Martha Kelly Lambert; Hallie Simmins on the death of her sister, Mary Lou Smith; Joan Wallace on the death of her partner, Geri Alt.

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 alisasecret@secondpreslr.org or sharonhoward@secondpreslr.org. Thanks for your help!

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

Upcoming Deadlines:
Wednesday, May 26
Wednesday, June 30