



Come With Us
to Bethlehem
December 11, 2022

11:00 a.m.

* **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE** (*RESPONSIVE*)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
On this day we celebrate and share the light and love
that comes to us in the Christ Child.
The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gathered in God's name, we now open ourselves to God's life-giving Word.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

CHILDREN SING AT CHRISTMAS

BY ANNE MCNAIR

COME WITH US TO BETHLEHEM

Diana Menyaeva, soloist

Come with us to Bethlehem! Come with joy, young and old. There a story will soon unfold! Mary and Joseph travel far, soon we will witness a shining star. See the stable, smell the sweet hay. God's gift of love is ours this day!

WE'RE HERE IN BETHLEHEM

We're here in Bethlehem. We've come along way. We're tired, we're hungry. We have no place to stay. But we must find shelter, the baby will come soon. Here is a stable, this will be our room.

The stable is warm in the cold of the night. The lantern burns brightly, providing a slight. The animals living here are ever so mild. Our manger will make a safe bed for the child.

We're here in Bethlehem, the hour has come to welcome Jesus, God's only son.

THE BABY'S FIRST CRY

The baby's first cry in the night was a cry for his father to hear. It's signaled his coming among us, meant to banish all pain and fear.

The baby's first cry in the night brought forth angels from heaven to earth, proclaiming the news of a Savior, and proclaiming his wondrous birth!

GLORIA

June Cross, soloist

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Glory be to God on high! Glory be to God!
The angels Sing of peace on earth, for they have seen God's light! The angels sing of Jesus's birth, rejoice with them this night!*

FOLLOW THE STAR

Follow the star to Bethlehem; follow the star today. Follow the star to Bethlehem; God will show the way. There you will find a tiny child born on a bed of hay. There you will find a tiny child; God will show the way.

HURRY, HURRY, SHEPHERDS

Hurry, hurry, shepherds, to the stable in Bethlehem; hurry, hurry, shepherds, now do not delay. Hurry, hurry, shepherds, to the stable in Bethlehem; angels have pointed the way.

You will find a baby in a manger. He will be the shepherd of us all. He will keep us safe from every danger. We will follow his call.

Once you've found the baby in a manger, just a tiny boy, tell the world he will not be a stranger. He will bring great joy!

LULLABY, SWEET JESUS

Lullaby, sweet Jesus, close your eyes. Dream of the angels under starry skies. Lullaby, sweet Jesus, hear the angels sing. They tell of the hope you bring.

Sleep, now, rest your head in your tiny manger bed. As you grow the world will know God's great love, which you will show.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR PARTICIPANTS

Theophilus Alsup	Jenna Lasiter	Alex Rigsby
Khloee Barrow	Lana Lasiter	Fisher Rigsby
Justin Barrow	Jon Mainard O'Connell	Samuel Rule
Lillian Bradbury	Nora McCormack	Thomas Rule
Ava Campbell	Peyton McMillian	Savanna Sea
June Cross	Diana Menyaeva	Sam Skinner
Win Hankins	Madeline Mitchell	Gemma Stroupe
Anna Rose Hankins	Rose Mitchell	Lawton Wright
Jonas Hudkins	Grace Moldoveanu	Rosie Yancey
Molly Hyde	Foster Moore	
Mary Jennings	Hudson Moore	

Please notify the church office of hospitalizations, joys and concerns. For a full listing of prayer concerns, please call the Care and Concern line at (501) 227-6117.

STATEMENT OF WELCOME AND INCLUSIVENESS

As one part of the church of Jesus Christ, we are inspired and guided by Christ's vision of God's realm—one that includes all who seek to love God and neighbor.

Second Presbyterian Church welcomes all people.

As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we invite those who respond in trust and obedience to God's grace in Jesus Christ to become part of the membership and ministry of the church.

We would be pleased to have you join us in our journey of faith, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic or family status, ethnic background, mental or physical abilities.

DID YOU MISS ONE OF THE SERMONS? If so, you can watch past worship services on the church website at secondpreslr.org. To receive a copy of a sermon either by e-mail or regular mail, contact Karin Howze, karinhowze@secondpreslr.org or (501) 227-0000. Printed copies are available in the Narthex and the church office.

SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:

Your generosity is a meaningful expression of your faith in God and your commitment to Christ's work in the world. Contributions can be made to the 2022 Annual Budget, Memorial Gifts and the Birthday Fund. You may support the ministries of our church by placing your offering in the offering plate as you exit the Sanctuary, through online giving at secondpreslr.org/giving or mailing a check to the church office, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72227.



A WEATHER REMINDER: Weekday church events are canceled and the church office is closed if the Little Rock Public Schools are canceled or dismissed due to weather.

THE PRAECLARA RINGERS invite you to a free concert filled with Broadway hits. From Les Misérables to Oklahoma, and so much in between, you're bound to hear familiar favorites. TODAY at 3:00 p.m. in our Great Hall. For more information, please contact Mary Ibis, maryibis@secondpreslr.org.

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**600 PLEASANT VALLEY DRIVE
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72227**

**OFFICE: (501) 227-0000
FAX: (501) 227-6513**

CARE & CONCERN LINE: (501) 227-6117

WWW.SECONDPRESLR.ORG

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE: God has led us to a new Director of Youth and Young Adults! Elizabeth Cahoon will join us with her husband Joel at the beginning of January. They will be coming from Annapolis, MD. Please join us in thanking God for bringing us together. Stay tuned for more information on welcoming Elizabeth and Joel to Little Rock.

PRAY FOR OUR GLOBAL MISSION PARTNERS: For several years, our congregation has supported the ministry of PC(USA) mission co-worker Dori Hjalmarson in Honduras. Dori accompanies, coordinates and coaches lay and pastoral leaders of the Presbyterian Church of Honduras as they develop educational opportunities for their members and communities. For more information about getting involved in our Presbytery's International Partnership with the Presbyterian Church in Honduras, contact Lindy Vogado (lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org).



STEWARDSHIP SEASON

Let Us Build A House Where Love Can Dwell

*“The Lord said to Moses,
‘Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You
are to receive the offering for me from everyone
whose heart prompts them to give.
Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I
will dwell among them.’”
(Exodus 25:1-2, 8)*

On November 20, we dedicated our Estimate of Giving commitments to God in worship. We give thanks to everyone who has made their commitments known. We will continue to receive Estimate of Giving commitments in the coming weeks. We encourage those who have not yet made a commitment to do so as a sign of your love for what God is doing in the life of Second Presbyterian Church. Every commitment makes a difference. We want to be able to maintain a vital and active ministry and compensate our staff fairly. Please prayerfully consider your support for your church. There are several ways you can turn in your Estimate of Giving card: place it in the offering plate today, mail it to the church, drop it off at the church office during the week, go to the church website or use the QR code. Please turn in your Estimate of Giving card by Friday, December 16.



ALL WOMEN OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: As Presbyterian Women, we are called to proclaim and live a life of joy in God's service. In December, we celebrate together in a special Gathering on Tuesday, December 13, 10:00 a.m. We invite all the women of Second Presbyterian to come join in the celebration as we share social time hosted by our PW Hospitality team. We look forward to the Christmas message shared by our own Rev. Jody Welker. And we look forward, as always in the festive music shared by Mary Ibis and our accompanist, Ouida Keck, as we celebrate this Advent season.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT VERA LLOYD has moved online! While we have traditionally had an Outreach Tree in the Narthex to provide Christmas presents for the youth living at Vera Lloyd Family Services, they began using an online registry format during the pandemic. Visit the registry at <https://www.amazon.com/registries/holiday/4VEMNDUAOISZ> to make Christmas brighter for children and youth living in foster care. If you need assistance using the registry and making an online purchase, please contact Lindy Vogado in the church office.

IS IT YOUR BIRTHDAY MONTH? REMEMBER THE BIRTHDAY FUND! If you have a December birthday, you may give a gift as well as receive a gift. You are invited to give a dollar celebrating each year of your age to our church's endowment fund. You may also give in honor or in memory of the birthday of a loved one. Our endowment fund supports all of the ministries of our church, such as outreach missions, youth scholarships, pastoral care, music, Christian education and more. Celebrate your birthday at the Birthday Fund table today in the Narthex. Birthday Fund envelopes are located at the table, at the Welcome Center and in the church office.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18: Lovingly referred to as *Big Music Sunday*, the Second Presbyterian Adult Choir will offer special Advent and Christmas music on December 18, during our 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. Special solos offered by mezzo soprano, Satia Spencer, tenor, DC Miles and sopranos, Taylor Bumann and Blythe Keating with instrumentalist Barry McVinney and organist Adam Savaccol, will highlight a morning of beautiful Christmas favorites. In addition, the SPC Adult choir will lead the congregation during a few of our favorite carols and Advent hymns. The members of your music ministry look forward to sharing the gift of music with you as we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: Tuesday, December 21, 6:00 p.m., Second Hall. We invite you to join us for a service that recognizes grief and loss during a season that can feel overwhelming with "merry and bright." A simple dinner will be provided. Contact Catherine Allsbury at catherineallsbury@secondpreslr.org for a dinner reservation.

CHEESES WITH JESUS: Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. #5 Berwyn Drive, Little Rock. We will have holiday refreshments, and a brief Advent devotion. Our final meeting of the year will be on December 21. We will have a Christmas party at 8301 Evergreen Drive 72227. We have had several new faces with us recently-- always have room for more friends! We are a mixed group of pairs and spares, married and single, in between "young adult" and retiree.

SECOND HALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: Join us for our new Advent class, "The Redemption of Scrooge" by Matt Rawle, December 4, 11, 18 and January 8 in Second Hall. Each class contains a short video and discussion on the imperative question—how, and why, can Scrooge be redeemed from his pride, greed, and envy? Led by Vernon Markham. Books are available for only \$10 in the church office.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES: Join these Adult Sunday School classes starting at 9:50 a.m.! Connections Cafe (Room 62) younger adults (20s to 40ish) gather to discuss careers, families, and current life issues, led by Kathryn Hyde. This class has begun a series of classes devoted to conversation and "reconstructing" faith, as one deconstructs or lets go of previous beliefs learned in childhood and in other contexts. Seeking More Light (Room 67 & Zoom) with Greg Adams is reading Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Always a Guest*. Copies are available in the church office. Adult Bible Study (Zoom and Library) with Graham Catlett continues *The Present Word* curriculum for discussion of biblical texts. Spiritual Nourishment (Zoom & Heritage Room) with Nancy Hicks continues to study *Being Belonging Doing: Balancing Your Three Greatest Needs* in their intimate and caring exploration of personal faith. For Zoom links and more information please contact Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell at mariemo@secondpreslr.org.

MIDWEEK ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES to enliven your faith during the week, on Zoom and in person. *Tuesday Men's Group Ministry:* each Tuesday at 7:00 a.m., men gather in person in Second Hall and on Zoom for encouragement, support, and bible study. Free donuts and coffee! For more information, Zoom address, questions and ideas please contact Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell at 214-686-6347 and mariemo@secondpreslr.org

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS are available on the table in the Narthex, and digital resources are also available for those interested in video or audio reflections. It's never too late to start a practice of waiting and listening – contact Rev. Marie at mariemo@secondpreslr.org or 214-686-6347 for help and information.

TEXT DEVOTIONAL SIGN-UP: Among the Advent devotionals available this year is a new opportunity to have a daily scripture and action reflection texted directly to your phone November 27 through January 6. Simply use this QR code or text "Advent Devo" to Rev. Marie at 214-686-6347.



NEW YEAR ADULT EDUCATION SCHEDULE: Start the new year off right with our first series on “The Meaning of Transitional Ministry.” If you asked the question, “when will we get a new pastor?” then this series is for you! Rev. Jody Welker will join us on his last Sunday, January 15, to reflect on his experience in a year of Interim Head Pastor. Then, newly retired professional interim Rev. Howard Reed will join us for two Sundays January 22 and 29 to discuss the theological underpinning of transitional ministry and the congregational response and responsibility in a season of change. Get answers to questions you may not realize you had, and discuss our path forward together.

ENJOY A ZOOM CONVERSATION WITH A PALESTINIAN CHRISTIAN FROM BETHLEHEM, Sunday, December 18 at 2:00 p.m. Jody Welker invites you to a conversation with a friend who lives in Bethlehem: Kamal Mukarker. Kamal is a Palestinian Christian of deep faith who is a tour guide with a great understanding of Bible and History. Come and join the conversation. Learn more about the place where Jesus was born. If you would like a Zoom link for this special conversation, email Jody Welker at jodywelker@secondpreslr.org.

UPDATE FROM YOUR PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Your PNC is continuing its work. We are continuously evaluating applications/applicants and determining who we want to consider further. Please continue reaching out to your connections with other Presbyterian pastors or folks in the pastor community. Let them know we're looking, and let us know if you've got contacts we can reach out to. Again, if you visit a church in your travels and the pastor knocks your socks off, we'd love to have those recommendations. Continue to pray for us as we continue this search.

PNC Members: Beth Sigler, Moderator, Greg Adams, Christina Littlejohn
Jim Marsh, Kathryn McMillan, Jennifer Rigsby, and Jón Stevenson

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS: Children of all ages are invited to a very special birthday party Sunday, December 18, at 9:40 a.m. in The Great Hall.... no presents necessary! Join us for crafts, cupcakes, music, story time and more. Invite a friend! For questions, contact Grant Wildwright at grantwildwright@secondpreslr.org.

FAMILY AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY UPDATES

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: Young Adults (18-35ish) are invited to join us at our regular fellowship events. We meet on Sundays in the Narthex after the 11:00 a.m. worship service for lunch and discussion. We also meet offsite every other Thursday at 7:00 p.m. for trivia and fellowship. To inquire about these events or get on our mailing list to find out about special events, contact grantwildwright@secondpreslr.org.

SUNDAY FAMILY DINNERS: Families with children are invited to dinners every other week (alternating with Sunday Evening SPY) at the home of the McCormack family. The next dinners will be held December 18 and January 8. Main dish provided, bring a side dish or dessert to share. The McCormacks' address is 2 Northwest Ct. Little Rock, AR 72212. Contact Grant Wildwright with questions grantwildwright@secondpreslr.org.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: There are Sunday School options for all ages of children starting at 9:50 a.m. each Sunday. Toddlers and Preschoolers have Beginners Sunday School in the Nursery, while Elementary Age kids meet in the Bible Village downstairs. We teach from the SparkHouse curricula, incorporating audio, visual, and tactile learning. With any questions, contact Grant Wildwright at grantwildwright@secondpreslr.org.



**CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF
STEPHEN MINISTRY AT
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN!**
commissioned May, 1992



If you or someone you know is hurting and you would like more information about receiving Stephen Ministry care

-OR-

If you are interested in learning more about our upcoming Stephen Ministry training class, please contact any of our Stephen Leaders.

Kay Combs 501-517-5007
Cathy Crass 501-951-5890
Steve Dunnagan 501-590-9768
Laurie Stueart 501-658-7966
Jana Villemez 501-517-1474
JoAnn McQuade, Grief Care
Rev. Alisa Secrest 501-227-0000

**STEPHEN MINISTRY
GIVING COMFORT, LIFTING SPIRITS**

USHER/GREETER VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS APPRECIATED: Those who serve as ushers and greeters for our worship service are providing a ministry of hospitality for members and visitors to our church. Along with providing an important leadership role for worship, those who serve as ushers and greeters are also afforded a wonderful opportunity to meet and work alongside other members of the congregation. You may contact the following deacons who serve as usher captains to volunteer as ushers or greeters.

DECEMBER WORSHIP USHER CAPTAINS

8:30 A.M.

Dan Voth

11:00 A.M.

Freddie Jolley
Scott Polk



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

*And we know that in all things God works for the
good of those who love him.*

— Romans 8:28a

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 at (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.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Worship 8:30 and 9:00
Children's Musical in Worship 11:00
Young Adults Lunch 12:15
*Praeclara Ringers Concert 3:00
MS and HS SPY 5:30
Basketball Practice 7:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

Boy Scouts 7:00
Volleyball 7:00

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Men's Group Bible Study 7:00
PW Gathering 10:00
Environmental Stewardship 5:30
Basketball Practice 6:30
Session Meeting 7:00

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Staff Meeting 9:00
WACKY 5:00
Adult Choir 6:00
*Cheeses With Jesus 7:00

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

Fred Hunt Memorial Service 3:00
Basketball Practice 6:30
Young Adults Group 7:00

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Boy Scouts 8:00

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

**Big Music Sunday*
Worship 8:30, 9:00, 11:00
*Birthday Party for Jesus 9:45
Young Adults Lunch 12:15
Family Dinner 4:00
Basketball Scrimmage 3:00

* Denotes announcement in bulletin



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettias are used to decorate the Sanctuary and Second Hall during Advent. You are invited to place a poinsettia in honor and/or memory of a loved one. Funds received in excess of those purchased will be used in benevolent ways to help others during the holidays. A list of those being honored and remembered and their donors will be printed as a special insert in the Christmas Eve bulletin. ***The deadline to order a poinsettia is December 11.*** The cost is \$15.00. You may either fill out the form below and return to the church office, fill out the form online at www.secondpreslr.org or use the QR Code.



I/We would like to purchase _____ poinsettia(s).

Enclosed is a check for \$_____.

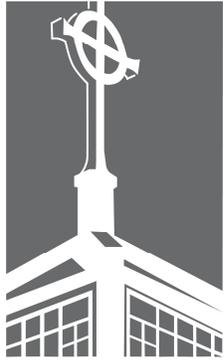
PLEASE PRINT

In memory of

In honor of

Name(s) of donor(s)

VISION STATEMENT



INVITED
BY CHRIST
IMPACTING
THE WORLD
INCLUSIVE
OF ALL

CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION

Moderator: Jody Welker
Clerk: Philip Shell
Assistant Clerk: George Keck
Treasurer: Kenneth Rich

CLASS OF 2023

Bracy Cross
Kim Dunnagan
Susan Marsh
Garry Mertins
John Ransom

CLASS OF 2024

Marge Anna Luttrell
Barry McVinney
Somerset Sea
Joseph Yancey
Carol Young

CLASS OF 2025

Alicia Byrd
Cotten Cunningham
Kate Franks
George Keck
Vernon Markham

YOUTH ELDER

Eli Gomez

DIACONATE

Moderator: Chris Boggs
Vice Moderator: Marsha Taylor
Secretary: Jennifer Rigsby

CLASS OF 2023

George Babb
Abby Considine
Anne Grimes
Natasha Graf
Chris Herring
Alex Honeycutt
Amy Lallier
Brother Nipper
Jennifer Rigsby
Bob Skinner
Linda Van Hook

CLASS OF 2024

Chris Boggs
Amber Griffin
Christin Hankins
Diane Holt
Kathryn Hyde
Katie King
Ann Norwood
Shannon Rookey
Marsha Taylor

CLASS OF 2025

Lauren Gann
Jamie Gomez
Freddie Jolley
Diane Karlson
Johanna Lewis
Jo Paulus
Ashton Pickell
Scott Polk
Margo Shoffner
Becky Talmadge
Dan Voth
Galen Wenger
Bradley Wright

YOUTH DEACON

Eli Eifling