

Large Print Bulletins, Large Print Hymnals and Hearing Devices are available.
Please ask an usher.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

8:30 AND 11:00 A.M.

The Congregation will speak aloud the bold print in responsive readings.
* Please rise in body or spirit.

GATHERING

Worship begins with God. God takes the initiative and calls the Church into being.
In the name of Christ, we heed God's call and gather as the community of faith.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

Please provide us a record of your attendance. At 11:00, take the red friendship pad, sign your name, and pass it down the pew and back, noting the names of those worshipping with you. At 8:30, complete the yellow card and place it in the offering plate. We encourage our guests to share your information that we might be aware of your presence with us.

PRELUDE

Trumpet Tune

D. German

* CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

Psalm 119:1-8

Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Happy are those who keep the decrees of the Lord and walk in God's ways.

O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

Let us worship God!

* HYMN NO. 321

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

* CALL TO CONFESSION

God is mighty in power and wondrous in love for us. God knows all that we do.
As those whom God calls beloved, let us bring our prayer of confession for ways we have strayed from the Divine.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

God of compassion, have mercy upon us. You have given us statutes, but we follow our own desires. We know of your laws, yet we try to justify our own way. You desire obedience; we practice rebellion. You offer blessing; we reach for scapegoats. Make us mindful of how we disorder your intentions. Set us right in accord with your design for us.

(Silent confession)

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer -



cy up - on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,
"This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,"
says the Lord: "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.
...I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more."

Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

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

Since God in Christ has forgiven us, let us also forgive one another.

The grace and peace of Christ be with you.

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.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN		Elizabeth Cahoon
FIRST READING	<i>DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20</i>	OT, P. 186
ANTHEM	<i>Blow Ye the Trumpet</i> SPC Adult Choir	K. Mechem
GOSPEL READING	<i>MATTHEW 5:21-37</i>	NT, PP. 4-5
SERMON	<i>Now is the Time...To Learn a New Thing</i>	Rev. Alisa Secrest
* HYMN NO. 410	<i>God Is Calling through the Whisper</i>	W. ZLOBIE LEZY

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

The proclamation of God's Word invites responses of faith.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (*UNISON*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Prière* J. Jongen

* **DOXOLOGY** OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SENDING

The God who calls us together in worship now sends us out in service.

* **INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

* **HYMN NO. 688** *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart* MORECAMBE

* **BENEDICTION**

* **CHORAL BENEDICTION** *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* J. Rutter

* **POSTLUDE** *Grand Chœur* T. Dubois

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Alisa Secrest

Rev. Lindy Vogado

Elizabeth Cahoon, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Dr. Bevan Keating, Director of Music and the Arts

Adam Savacool, Organist

Clint Brockway, Interpreter

Liturgists: (8:30) Peggy Sullivan (11:00) Beth Sigler

Elders of the Day: (8:30) Justin Villines (11:00) Vernon Markham

Ushers: (11:00) Amber, Cody, Kennedy and Deckard Griffin

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.

OFFERINGS TO 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 2023 Annual Budget, Memorial Gifts and the Birthday Fund. You may support the ministries of our church by placing your offering in the offering plate, through online giving at secondpreslr.org/giving or mailing a check to the church office, **600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72227**.



DEMENTIA CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP: Gather for support, resources and sharing of experiences when you have a loved one experiencing dementia. This support group will meet **Thursday, October 5** at 1:00 p.m. in person and on Zoom. For information, contact the office or Sandra Rogers.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: Faith and Grief support group meets the third Tuesday of the month in Second Hall at noon. The next meeting is **Tuesday, October 17**. This is a monthly community gathering of support and comfort. Join at any time. There is no cost, but we appreciate a good will offering of \$8 to cover the cost of lunch. Please register through faithandgrief.org or through the church office, so we can have plenty of lunches available.

ENNEAGRAM 101: Join us for *Enneagram 101: Learn Your Number*. We will meet in Second Hall on Thursdays, September 7 through October 26 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The course follows the teaching of Enneagram master teacher, Suzanne Stabile. Catherine Lowry will facilitate the sessions. Please call the church office 501-227-0000 to register. The cost is \$20 and participant manuals will be available at the first session.

TOUR OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: Are you a visitor or new member who would like to know your way around our church campus? Are you a long-time member interested in how our building is currently being used throughout the week? If so, we'd love for you to join us for a tour of the church! Associate Pastor Lindy Vogado will be giving a tour of the church Sunday, **October 15, at 9:50 a.m.** (during the Sunday School hour). We will meet at the Welcome Center to begin the tour and will finish in plenty of time to attend 11:00 worship. For more information or to arrange a tour at another time, contact Lindy Vogado (lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org). We hope to see you there!

ALL CHURCH PICNIC! It's that time again! Mark your calendar for the Annual All-Church Picnic on **Sunday, October 15** at Ferncliff beginning at 12:15 p.m. We'll make use of indoor and outdoor spaces for fellowship, dining and recreation. Enjoy cafeteria-style lunch, lawn games, a fishing tournament, rocking chairs, canoeing, volleyball, the Shady Chute, tours of the grounds and more. Dessert at the Yurts will be at 2:00 p.m., when we dedicate the new Ferncliff Yurt Village in June Williams' memory. Please sign up with the QR code, on the website, in the office or on Sunday mornings, so we can prepare plenty of food. The cost is \$10 per person, up to \$40 per household.



TUESDAY MEN'S GROUP MINISTRY: Each Tuesday at 7:00 a.m., men gather in Second Hall and on Zoom for encouragement, support, and Bible study. Free donuts and coffee! Men of all ages are invited to visit or join. Contact Vic Fleming (judgevic@gmail.com) or Vernon Markham (vmarkh3@gmail.com) for further details.

INTERGENERATIONAL DRINKS AND DISCIPLESHIP GROUP: All are welcome to attend the intergenerational fun that is the "Drinks and Discipleship" group. We gather in homes on the first Wednesday of every month to laugh, cry, sip, snack, and spend time in Christ's fellowship together. All ages are welcome, and we love to make new friends. To be added to the email list, contact Amara at amarayancey@gmail.com.

CHEESES WITH JESUS: We are an adult group for those in between "young adult" and retiree. We welcome newcomers to the church, as well as those who have been long time members. We start our meetings with a time of fellowship and food followed by study. We normally gather off campus at a private home. Contact Diane Karlson at (970) 412-3144 for more details.

CALLING ALL DOGS, CATS, TURTLES, AND HAMSTERS! On **Sunday, Oct. 1** at 3:00 p.m., our church will be joining with Grace Presbyterian Church for our annual Blessing of the Animals service. We invite you to bring your family pet (all species welcome!) to this casual service as we celebrate God's good creation and the role that animals play in our lives. The service will take place outdoors in the courtyard of Grace Pres (9301 N. Rodney Parham Road), and if you are able, we invite you to bring a bag of dog or cat food for the Humane Society of Pulaski County. We do ask that all pets remain either leashed or in a cage/aquarium throughout the service. For more information, please contact Lindy Vogado (lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org).



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND VOLUNTEERS! Children and Families Ministry is busy preparing for the fall and excited about our plans for Sunday School. We have chosen curriculum, are planning for volunteer training, and getting ready for our kickoff event on August 20. Now we just need YOU! There are many volunteers needed of all ages to have a thriving and successful Children's Sunday School Program at Second Presbyterian Church. Use the QR code to check out the different volunteer and teacher positions. If you have questions, please contact Leslie McCormack at leslier.mcc@gmail.com.

W.A.C.K.Y. IS BACK! Wednesdays at church for kids and has begun! WACKY includes dinner, bells, choir, programs/art and a lot of fun. All kindergarten through high school seniors are invited to join us.

For more information, please contact Mary Ibis, maryibis@secondpreslr.org or Elizabeth Cahoon, elizabethcahoon@secondpreslr.org.

Children's Schedule:

5:00 dinner
5:30 bells/Orff
6:00 choir
6:50 programs/art
7:30 dismissal

Youth's Schedule:

5:00 youth choir
5:40 dinner
6:00 programs/art
6:45 bells
7:30 dismissal

YOUNG ADULTS! If you identify as a Young Adult, we welcome you to the Young Adult Ministry! We have many opportunities for you to gather in fellowship and spiritual growth at Second Presbyterian Church. If you are interested in growing your leadership skills, we encourage you to consider volunteering as a Youth Advisor. If you are interested in our monthly gatherings please see the information below. **First and Third Thursdays** – Bible Study | 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Youth Building (September's Theme: Animals in the Bible) **Second and Fourth Thursdays** – Trivia Night | 7:00-9:00 p.m. at American Pie Pizza (9709 Maumelle Blvd, North Little Rock, AR 72113) **Sunday Lunch** (every week) | 12:00-2:00 p.m. Gather in the narthex to discuss location.

Young Adult Fall Retreat | November 10-12 in Hot Springs, AR. If you need a weekend away and time to reset your clock, please join us for our Fall Retreat in Hot Springs, AR. We have rented a beautiful lake house with accessible hiking and boating. Please register with this QR and submit the \$100 fee. If you are in need of financial assistance, please contact Elizabeth Cahoon.



YOUTH UPDATE! Our Youth Ministry is back in full swing as we welcome students back from summer vacation! If you are interested in Sunday School or Youth Group, we have a place for you. We are also adding a monthly service project for our students to engage with all of God's creation. Make sure to **Save the Dates for our Middle School (November 17-19) and High School (November 3-5) Fall Retreats coming this November!** Please look at these dates for gathering times: **September 24:** Sunday School (9:50 a.m.) Confirmation (9:50 a.m.), Youth Group (MS 5:30-7:00 p.m., HS 6:30-8:00 p.m.) **September 30:** Service Saturday at Habitat Restore (12:00-2:00 p.m.)



**CELEBRATING 31 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,

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**

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

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES FOR THE FALL: SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9:50 A.M.

Second Hall Short Series opens with a book-with-video discussion The Walk by Adam Hamilton, focusing on five essential spiritual practices, led by staff and members. Books available for \$10. Zoom room also available.

Connections Class in room 62 is continuing The Heart of Christianity by Marcus Borg – no pre-reading needed to discover a life of faith by reconceptualizing familiar beliefs.

The *Seeking More Light* class is in room 67 is starting the book No Cure for Being Human by Kate Bowler, who asks “how do you move forward with a life you didn’t choose?” Order books online or contact the front office. Zoom room also available.

The *Bible Study Class* in the Library remains focused on studying The Fall Uniform Series on “God’s Law is Love” and moves through key passages of Luke, John, Romans, Galatians, Acts and First Corinthians to explore how Love Completes, Faith Triumphs and Christ Frees. Curriculum available digitally or printed free of charge. Zoom room also available.

Spiritual Nourishment meets in the Heritage room to discuss Anne Lamott's new book, Dusk Night Dawn where she confronts the hard question “How can we recapture the confidence we once had in the future as we stumble through dark times that seem increasingly bleak?” Zoom room also available.

First and Third Monday Bible Study Group meets at 9:30 a.m. in Second Hall starting Monday Sept. 18 for our new study Eat This Book by Eugene Peterson, co-led by Rev. Marie and guest lecturer Rev. Robert Lowry. Delve deep into the practice of spiritual reading and lectio-divina. Books available in office for \$15 or order online. Zoom by request. Questions, comments or new ideas for class topics? Contact Rev. Marie Mainard O’Connell at mariemo@secondpreslr.org or 214-686-6347.

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.

OCTOBER WORSHIP USHER CAPTAINS

8:30 A.M.

Matt Christenson

11:00 A.M.

(10/1, 10/8) Freddie Jolley
(10/15) Emma Ryall
(10/22) Amber Griffin
(10/29) Jo Paulus

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Worship 8:30, 9:00, 11:00

Sunday School 9:50

Praeclara Ringers 2:00

*Middle School SPY 5:30

SPY Dinner 6:30

*High School SPY 7:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Day Ringers 11:30

Pastoral Care 1:30

Stephen Ministry Dinner 6:00

Volleyball 7:00

Boy Scouts 7:00

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Men's Group Bible Study 7:00

PW Coordinating Team 1:00

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Staff Meeting 9:00

*W.A.C.K.Y. 5:00

All Choir Dinner 6:00

Adult Choir 6:30

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

*Enneagram 6:30

*Young Adult Bible Study 7:00

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Byron Reeves Memorial Service 11:00

*Youth Service Saturday 12:00

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

World Communion Sunday

Worship 8:30, 9:00, 11:00

Sunday School 9:50

Praeclara Ringers 2:00

*Middle School SPY 5:30

Children's Ministry 5:30

SPY Dinner 6:30

*High School SPY 7:00

* Denotes announcement in bulletin