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

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**OCTOBER 29, 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

(8:30) Fugue in G minor, BWV 578 (11:00) Afterthoughts Children and Youth Ringers J.S. Bach S. Eithun

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

Welcome this day to a time of rest.

We come, bearing burdens and cares.

Place your lives in the loving hands of God.

May God heal our spirits and strengthen us.

Trust in God who is always with you.

Lord, we come to you in faith and trust for your gracious mercies. Amen.

\* HYMN No. 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

# CALL TO CONFESSION

Our hearts long for God.

We know we fall short of God's glory,

so let us confess the ways we have fallen short of God's grace.

Please pray with me...

# PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

God of light, we live in the darkness of despair:

worried about our lives, concerned for our health,

fearful that we are lost from you.

It doesn't occur to us to ask for your help.

The yoke of our burdens lies heavy upon us:

our unwillingness to forgive, our fears of one another,

our reluctance to share what we have, our divisions and quarrels.

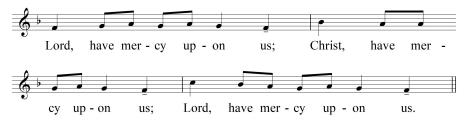
We long to turn from the dark and live in the light.

Shine the light of your love upon us;

transform us with your love that your promised realm may draw near.

Amen. (Silent confession)

#### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON (RESPONSIVE)

The light of God's love shines into the dark places of our world, healing its brokenness, and bringing hope to places of despair. The light of God's love makes us a forgiven people.

Thanks be to God!

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

The peace of Christ be with you! And also with you.

#### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

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

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Stewardship

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN

Blessing of the Socks

ANTHEM (8:30) Laudate Dominum W. A. Mozart

SPC Adult Choir

Satia Spencer, mezzo soprano

(11:00) Seek And You Will Find N. Sleeth

Children's Choir

FIRST READING PSALM 139: 1-14 OT, P. 577-8

GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 7:7-12 NT, P. 7

SERMON "It Really is THIS Easy" Rev. Alisa Secrest

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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

\* HYMN No. 175

Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY

# 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** (8:30) God Be In My Head J. Rutter

SPC Adult Choir

(11:00) Theme from Finlandia S. E. Rogers

Children and Youth Ringers

\* 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. 459** O Word of God Incarnate MUNICH
- \* BENEDICTION
- \* POSTLUDE (8:30) Toccata in D minor, BWV 565 (11:00) How Firm a Foundation

Youth Ringers

J. S. Bach S. Eithun

#### **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. Alisa Secrest Rev. Dr. Benjamin E.E. Kane Rev. Lindy Vogado

Elizabeth Cahoon, Director of Youth and Young Adults
Mary Ibis, Associate Director of Music and the Arts
Dr. Bevan Keating, Director of Music and the Arts
Adam Savacool, Organist
Ashley Stone, Handbell Assistant
Clint Prockyony, Interpreter

Clint Brockway, Interpreter Liturgist: (8:30) Ann Owen Elder of the Day: Justin Villines

Greeters: (8:30) Jo Paulus (11:00) Jane and Howard Turney Ushers: (8:30) Monica and Matt Christenson, Carol Young, Gus Bower (11:00) Pam and George Babb, Jane and Vernon Markham, Diane McVinney, Anne Crow, Ouida and George Keck

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 secondprestr.org/giving or mailing a check to the church office, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72227.



SPECIAL JAZZ WORSHIP AT 9:00 A.M. TODAY! "Jazz is about being in the moment." - Herbie Hancock. Join musicians Tom Cox and Barry McVinney in Second Hall for our usual 9:00 a.m. service -- not in the prayer garden, but indoors and fully present-- for a delightful worship of jazz and the Word. Turn a contemplative ear to the upbeat sounds of piano, flute, and saxophone as they tickle the senses and soothe the soul with music that is as much meditation as it is rhythm and movement. Rev. Dr. Ben Kane delivers the message, and the whole service is sure to be the cat's meow.



#### SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2024

The Stewardship Team of Laura and Ken Cook, Rob Owens, Becky and Jackson Farrow, Elaine Eubank, Alfred Williams, and Ann Burnside invite you to embark on a journey with us as we explore what it means

to join Christ on the mountain. We invite you to join us in this exciting



campaign and to learn more about the theme and how we put your gifts to use at Second Presbyterian, and to meet Rev. Ben and Lydia Wingo Kane at one of the *Home Gatherings* that you can sign up for using the QR code or by calling the church office.

CARE FOR CAREGIVERS: Our Dementia Caregiver Support Group gathers for support, resources and sharing of experiences. This month, we'll host a team from Alzheimer's Arkansas to discuss your needs and share resources. Please join us **Thursday, November 2** at 1:00 p.m. in person or on Zoom. For more information, contact the church office or Sandra Rogers.

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP:** Faith and Grief support group meets the third Tuesday of the month in Second Hall at noon. This is a monthly community gathering of support and comfort. Join at any time. Faith and Grief support group will not meet at its regularly scheduled time in November, due to Thanksgiving week. We will be praying for you and look forward to our next gathering on December 19.

THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL TODAY | 5:00-7:00 P.M. The Youth, Fellowship, and Belonging Ministries invite all children, parents, and friends to experience the magic of our Halloween Carnival. Games, activities, food, fairy hair, face painting, and Trunk or Treat will all be in the parking lot. Candy Donations: We encourage and appreciate all candy donations to help supply the Halloween Carnival on 10/29. Donations can be dropped off in the church office. Please be generous and thoughtful as you donate such delicious treats! We ask that you keep all donations NUT FREE.

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:** Join this multi-age adult group Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> at the home of Jeannie Ford and Collins Andrews to laugh, sip, snack and fellowship from 5:30-7:30pm! Childcare available at the church. This month we will play "Art Bingo": send in the name of your favorite piece of visual art and we guess which art belongs to who! Prizes included (results may vary). This month please send your RSVP to Pastor Marie (she's also putting together our bingo sheet) at mariemo@secondpreslr.org

PRAECLARA RINGERS FALL FAVORITES HANDBELL CONCERT: Sunday, November 5, 3:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. Please join us for an afternoon of some of the best handbell music ever written. There will be a simple reception following the concert. Childcare will be available. For more information, please contact Mary Ibis, maryibis@secondpreslr.org.

WEDDING BELLS! Melanie Hanna and Ethan Ezell have been singing in the SPC Adult Choir for years and teach music together at Second Presbyterian Preschool. They would like to extend an invitation to their wedding on November 11 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. All are welcome! Contact Melanie and Ethan at melhanna85@gmail.com or blulitskye@gmail.com for additional details.

**SOCKTOBER!** Children's Ministry has been collecting socks during Sunday School and W.A.C.K.Y. in the month of October. We are pleased to have joined in this event with Second Presbyterian Preschool. All socks will be blessed during the 11:00 service **TODAY**. Socks will be taken for donation to CANVAS Community downtown by our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade SPY Kids on **Wednesday**, **November 1**. Please reach out to Leslie McCormack for more information: lesliemccormack@secondpreslr.org.

SAVE THE DATE! HANGING OF THE GREENS: This year, it is an *evening* event! Join us Sunday evening, Nov. 26 at 4:00 p.m. for an hour of decorating, making, placing, hanging, and preparing our church for the first of Advent in December. Our redesigned evening tradition begins with volunteer stations throughout the building to set up Christmas Trees, make ornaments, fluff and place wreaths, build outdoor installations, and craft blessing bags and cards for the homeless and homebound.

4:00 p.m. Decorating inside and out

5:00 p.m. Potato and Chili Bar dinner, \$7.00 per person, \$28.00 max per family

5:45 p.m. Brief worship in Sanctuary to Light the Chrismon Tree



Make your reservations now for this enjoyable friends-and-family fellowship by calling the church office or registering online at this code! You don't want to miss the fun and fellowship of our annual tradition.

COME JOIN THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS! All children, kindergarteners through fifth graders, are invited to join us as we prepare for our children's led service. This year our children will lead the 11:00 a.m. service on **Sunday, December 17**. Our musical, "A Shepherd's Story," retells the Christmas narrative through the excitement of some of its very first witnesses. Our little shepherds will sing, ring, and tell the story, once again. For more information, please contact Mary Ibis, maryibis@secondpreslr.org.

AFGHAN WELCOME UPDATE: Wonderful news! Both of our families have now been granted asylum! Achieving this status has been a huge goal for both our volunteer teams, and we are grateful for our members' hard work in handling paperwork and also the expertise of pro-bono lawyers who are helping us negotiate the immigration process. Both families continue to be busy with employment and school, and we are grateful for all the ways they are becoming involved in the Little Rock community. As some of our original volunteers have concluded their responsibilities, we welcome new volunteers to help with after-school activities, occasional transportation needs, and other miscellaneous tasks. Please contact Lindy Vogado (lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org) if you would like more information about how to get involved.

HAVE YOU EVER GOTTEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP WHILE ON VACATION OR PERHAPS YOU WERE SICK SO STAYED HOME? How would you like to support that ministry of our church? "But I'm not a computer geek!" That's ok! Our livestreaming process is actually pretty easy. All you have to do is click the start button, follow along with the order of worship on a lineup, and then click stop at the end. And more experienced folks are always a few pews away if something does go array. If you'd like to learn more, please reach out to our coordinator Sam Byrd - sbyrd@thebyrdnest.net or 501-837-5624 or stop by the table in the back corner of the sanctuary some morning. We'd love to have you watch us.

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

### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY UPDATE

SPY Kids will meet twice this month in service of others in our community. SPY Kids will deliver socks from our Socktober donation campaign to Canvas Community and Our House on November 1. We are pleased to have joined in this event with Second Presbyterian Preschool.We are grateful to share over 1,000 pairs of socks to individuals who need them during the cooler months. SPY Kids will meet on Sunday, November 12 to make pumpkin bread for friends at home.

We will have church family lunch on November 12 and November 26. Please join us for fellowship and food! All are welcome. November 12 will be hosted by the Hankins Family (9 Cape Cod Court) and November 26 will be hosted by the McCormack Family (2 Northwest Court).

We are excited to host a preschool popup on November 18 at Two Rivers Park. We invite all 2-5 year olds to join us for fun play time and snacks at the new inclusive park at Two Rivers.For more information on these events, contact Maggie Kirchner at maggiekirchner@secondpreslr.org or Leslie McCormack at lesliemccormack@secondpreslr.org.

#### SECOND HALL SHORT SERIES FOR NOVEMBER

Healing After Challenge: The Christian and Trauma

Exhausted? Burnt out? Short temper? Maybe fearful or anxious? You aren't alone. We live in troubling times: changes wrought by COVID, anxiety produced by the news, and difficulty in our personal lives – births, deaths, career changes, illness, natural disaster, violence - all conspire to create a very real harm to our bodies, minds, and spirits. Join us for a series informed by the book *The Body Keeps the Score* to understand how humans adapt to challenge and trauma, and current techniques to treat harm and recover. Rev. Ben Kane will open us with a discussion of communal challenge and trauma in scripture, and ss our second leader, therapist Rachel Pinto, will tell us, "Trauma isn't the event that happened, it's how our bodies become stuck in the process of healing, and how modern society prevents healing. We must learn to cope as a community, and as individuals, and the good news is that many ways are available to us." Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell will conclude our final two classes in consideration of how we can choose to help our communities and children heal as well. Books available in the church office for \$10.

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

Second Hall Short Series this month is *The Soundtrack of Faith: Music Impacting Ministry*. Music speaks to the soul unlike any other artistic expression, combining the heights of spiritual truth and the depth of human emotion, inspiring and articulating what we ourselves cannot say. Join us in exploring the soundtrack of our leaders as we hear excerpts of the music that sustains their spirit, both sacred and secular. What better way to get to know someone than to hear what's on their playlist and find out why? **TODAY:** Rev. Dr. Ben Kane, Pastor

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 class is updating! This small group is reading Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers by Anne Lamott. Join them early at 9:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room or online Sundays. Newcomers always welcome as we slowly digest these wise, funny words from one of our favorite modern writers.

**FIRST AND THIRD MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** Let's continue to *Eat This Book*, our study by Eugene Peterson, on the art and practice of spiritual reading – how to ingest and digest scripture to transform our lives. Join at 9:30 a.m. in Second Hall on **November 6** for chapters 4 and 5; bring a Bible if not the book for practice in *lectio divina*.

CHEESES WITH JESUS: We are a dynamic community, bridging the gap between 'young adulthood' and retirement with grace and zeal. Our doors swing wide to welcome newcomers seeking spiritual enlightenment and treasured long-time members alike. We start our meetings with a time of fellowship and libations/food followed by study. Within the intimate sanctuary of a private residence, we transcend the ordinary, embarking on a journey of profound connection and spiritual growth. We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday and are currently studying *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton. Contact Catherine Allsbury or Justin Villines if you want to join us: villinesjustin@gmail.com. ALL are welcome!



MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLERS are invited to register for our fun weekend away in Hot Springs for our Fall Retreat! We will be staying in a beautiful lake house offering plenty of time to fish, relax, and enjoy God's creation. HS Weekend: November 3-5. MS Weekend: November 17-19



#### YOUNG ADULTS - JOIN US FOR OUR WEEKLY GATHERINGS!

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 | HOT SPRINGS, AR If you are in need of 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 Code and submit the \$100 fee. If you need financial assistance, please contact Elizabeth Cahoon.



# 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

Laurie Stueart 301-038-7900

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.

#### **NOVEMBER WORSHIP USHER CAPTAINS**

#### 8:30 A.M.

(11/5) David Eifling (11/12) Dan Voth (11/19) David Eifling

#### 11:00 A.M.

(11/5 and 11/12) Galen Wenger (11/19) Emma Ryall (11/26) Jo Paulus

#### **CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29** Worship 8:30, 9:00, 11:00

Sunday School 9:50 Praeclara Ringers 2:00 \*Halloween Carnival 5:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

Day Ringers 11:30 Pastoral Care 1:30 Volleyball 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

Men's Group Bible Study 7:00 Planned Giving 11:30

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Staff Meeting 9:00 \*W.A.C.K.Y. 5:00 Adult Choir 6:30 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

\*Dementia Caregiver Support Group 1:00

Home Gathering 6:00 Worship Ministry 7:00

\*Young Adult Bible Study 7:00

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3 \*SPY H.S. Fall Retreat

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

\*SPY H.S. Fall Retreat

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

All Saints' Sunday

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

Sunday School 9:50

Stewardship Gathering 12:00

Praeclara Ringers Concert 3:00

Children's Ministry 5:30 Middle School SPY 5:30

SPY Dinner 6:30

High School SPY 7:00

<sup>\*</sup> Denotes announcement in bulletin

# **VISION STATEMENT**



#### CHURCH OFFICERS

#### **SESSION**

Moderator: Ben Kane Clerk: Philip Shell Assistant Clerk: George Keck Treasurer: Kenneth Rich

#### CLASS OF 2024

Marge Anna Luttrell Barry McVinney Somerset Sea Joseph Yancey Carol Young

### YOUTH ELDER Lena Nelson

#### **CLASS OF 2025**

Alicia Byrd Cotten Cunningham Kate Franks George Keck Vernon Markham

#### CLASS OF 2026

Mary Helen Henry Leslie McCormack Ruth Shepherd Alan Solomon Justin Villines

#### DIACONATE

Moderator: Chris Boggs Vice Moderator: Marsha Taylor Secretary: Jamie Gomez

# **CLASS OF 2024**

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

# YOUTH DEACON

Joseph Lloyd

# **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** 

# **CLASS OF 2026**

Matt Christenson Cindy Downs David Eifling Judy Johnson Amy Lloyd Ann Owen Emma Ryall Matthew Smith L.B. Vaught Zachary Ward